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Item 16(a) and (b) of the provisional agenda
Matters relating to capacity-building for developing countries
Capacity-building under the Convention
Capacity-building under the Kyoto Protocol

Capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol

Compilation and synthesis report by the secretariat

Summary

This report was prepared to inform discussions taking place at the 7th meeting of the Durban Forum for in-depth discussion on capacity-building and the 1st meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building. The report compiles and synthesizes information on capacity-building contained in reports published by relevant bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund Board from 1 January to 31 December 2017.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the secretariat to compile and synthesize the reports prepared by the relevant bodies established under the Convention since the most recent meeting of the Durban Forum and to make the resulting report available to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sessions coinciding with the meetings of the Durban Forum to facilitate the discussions of the Durban Forum.[1]

2. The COP decided to include the compilation and synthesis report on capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol in the inputs to the Paris Committee on Capacity-building.[2]

B. Scope of the report

3. This report synthesizes information relevant to capacity-building contained in the following reports prepared from 1 January to 31 December 2017:

(a) Progress of work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE);[3]

(b) Reports on the 31st and 32nd meetings of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG);[4]

(c) Report of the Adaptation Committee (AC);[5]

(d) Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;[6]

(e) Joint annual report of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) for 2017;[7]

(f) Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF);[8]

(g) Annual report of the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (CDM) to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP);[9]

(h) Report of the Green Climate Fund (GCF);[10]

(i) Report of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to the COP;[11]

(j) Report of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB).[12]

4. A compilation of specific capacity-building activities undertaken by bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol is provided in the addendum[13] to this report.

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[1] Decisions 2/CP.17, paragraph 146, and 1/CP.18, paragraph 78.
[2] Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 79.
[3] FCCC/SBI/2017/15.
[4] FCCC/SBI/2017/6 and FCCC/SBI/2017/14, respectively.
[5] FCCC/SB/2017/2 and Add.1.
[6] FCCC/SB/2017/1 and Add.1.
[7] FCCC/SB/2017/3.
[8] FCCC/CP/2017/9.
[9] FCCC/KP/CMP/2017/5.
[10] FCCC/CP/2017/5.
[11] FCCC/CP/2017/7 and Add.2.
[12] FCCC/KP/CMP/2017/6.
[13] FCCC/SBI/2018/3/Add.1.

II. Capacity-building elements in the work of bodies established under the Convention

A. Emerging trends

5. Recognizing the cross-cutting nature of capacity-building, and the increasing demand for capacity-building in implementing the Paris Agreement, **a significant increase in the identification of synergies and opportunities for collaboration in the delivery of capacity-building activities among UNFCCC constituted bodies and expert groups as well as between these bodies and intergovernmental organizations** was noted in the reporting period.

6. Driven by mandates and inspired by common medium- and long-term objectives, all bodies undertook outreach efforts to strengthen dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among bodies and processes under the Convention, or identified entry points for collaboration.

7. Bodies also intensified their planning and implementation of capacity-building activities through partnerships and joint initiatives with external stakeholders. These cooperation efforts benefited from the distinctive expertise, experience and resources of the partners involved. Examples of reported collaborations, partnerships or joint initiatives are:

(a) The CGE: with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (UNDP and UNEP jointly administer the Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;

(b) The LEG: with the GCF and GEF secretariats;

(c) The AC: with the partner organizations of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, CTCN, Adaptation Fund, GCF, GEF, NAP Global Network, and the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (jointly administered by UNDP and UNEP);

(d) The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism: with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, Platform on Disaster Displacement, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNDP, and civil society through the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility;

(e) The TEC: with the GCF and GEF secretariats.

(f) The SCF: with the GCF and GEF.

B. Capacity-building elements in the work of the Consultative Group of Experts

8. During the reporting period, the CGE, in line with its mandate, continued to respond to the need for enhancing the capacity of Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) to prepare their national communications (NCs) and biennial update reports (BURs), and of experts nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts to conduct the technical analysis of BURs.

9. The CGE organized regional hands-on training workshops, which contributed to enhancing the depth of the technical knowledge of experts from non-Annex I Parties and enabled the exchange of views, lessons learned and experience relating to the process and preparation of NCs and BURs and to the preparation of national greenhouse gas inventories.

10. The CGE also continued to assess emerging problems and constraints, lessons learned and best practices identified in the reporting process by non-Annex I Parties, including the challenges and needs reported by them in their most recent NCs and BURs.[14] This assessment led to the identification of a range of actions addressing the specific needs of non-Annex I Party experts, including the updating of training materials, the launch of additional tools targeting certain reporting areas and expert groups, and the organization of webinars on priority thematic areas.

C. Capacity-building elements in the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

11. In 2017, the LEG continued to provide technical guidance and support to the least developed countries (LDCs) on aspects related to adaptation planning and implementation.

12. As regards its provision of support to the national adaptation plan (NAP) process, the LEG, including through the support of its NAP technical working group, conducted five regional training workshops, which contributed to strengthening the capacity of countries to formulate and implement NAPs, and two regional NAP Expos, which provided the opportunity for a wide range of actors and stakeholders to exchange experience on advancing the process to formulate and implement NAPs and to foster partnerships.

13. The LEG updated some national NAP case studies, which helped provide practical examples of how the process to formulate and implement NAPs can be rolled out at the national level. Furthermore, the LEG developed and applied during the regional training workshops (see para. 12 above) the Integrative Framework for NAPs and Sustainable Developed Goals (NAP-SDG iFrame). This framework aims to assist the integration of different country-driven and country-specific components, enabling the consideration of how to address the Sustainable Development Goals while preparing NAPs. The LEG also continued to develop NAP Central to service information needs regarding NAPs. NAP Central currently hosts NAPs from nine developing countries as well as the NAP Support Tracker and other tools and functions.

14. During the reporting period, the LEG, in collaboration with the GCF secretariat, continued to provide technical guidance on accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. It also worked on developing frequently asked questions addressing the emerging needs and challenges faced by countries in accessing funding from the GCF, and on developing indicative sets of activities, reflecting different national circumstances and stages involved in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, for inclusion in proposals for accessing funding from the GCF.

D. Capacity-building elements in the work of the Adaptation Committee

15. During the reporting period, the AC made progress on a range of activities aimed at providing technical support and guidance to developing countries in two main areas, namely adaptation action and means of implementation, which encompass finance, technology and capacity-building.

16. In particular, the AC promoted discussion on enhanced action on adaptation prior to 2020 in the context of the technical examination process on Adaptation, and concentrated its efforts on information products and tools with a view to increasing access by developing countries to technical information on a spectrum of adaptation-related areas. For example, in collaboration with the Nairobi work programme and the CTCN secretariats, the AC prepared an initial map of existing platforms of national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks that provide technical support to developing countries on adaptation, and, in collaboration with the Adaptation Fund, the GCF, the GEF, the LEG and the SCF, it agreed to periodically prepare and distribute the *UNFCCC Adaptation Finance Bulletin*, an innovative means of disseminating information on adaptation finance.

[14] See document FCCC/SBI/2017/16 for more information.

17. In the context of accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, the AC prepared an information paper on the experience of countries with the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. Furthermore, it endorsed a concept note for a workshop, in collaboration with the GCF secretariat, on engaging stakeholders, including national implementing entities (NIEs) and national designated authorities (NDAs), in order to advance their understanding of and overcome challenges relating to establishing national entities for direct access and access to the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. It was agreed that the workshop would be organized in conjunction with the 2018 NAP Expo, which is tentatively scheduled to take place in April 2018.

E. Capacity-building elements in the work of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

18. Since the previous reporting period, the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism has made notable progress on its capacity-building work relating to the functions of the Mechanism in promoting the implementation of a variety of approaches to avert, minimize and address the risk of loss and damage.

19. In order to enhance understanding of and promote comprehensive risk management, the Executive Committee undertook a wide range of awareness-raising, outreach and information-sharing activities, in particular synthesizing information on the current landscape of climate risk analysis for extreme and slow onset events in developing countries, compiling a compendium of approaches for risk assessment, reduction transfer and retention, and social protection as well as transformational approaches,[15] and organizing a side event on risk financing for slow onset events.[16]

20. Furthermore, the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer[17] and its interactive platform RISK TALK, launched at COP 23, bridges the worldwide supply of know-how about risk management and risk transfer and the needs of vulnerable countries and communities. Using cutting-edge technology, RISK TALK connects experts and those in search of risk transfer solutions and enables them to easily start building tailor-made solutions that foster climate-resilient sustainable development.

21. Following a mandate from COP 21,[18] the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism operationalized a task force on displacement, comprising experts from external institutions, with the aim of developing recommendations, through the implementation of its workplan, for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change.

F. Capacity-building elements in the work of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network

22. The TEC and the CTCN continued to strengthen their collaboration in 2017 in order to enhance coherence and synergy in the work of the Technology Mechanism. In supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the TEC and the CTCN jointly advanced discussions on climate technology research, development and demonstration, including by hosting meetings during and after the forty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies. They also worked side by side to strengthen the technology needs assessment (TNA) process by considering how assistance could be provided to Parties to align their

[15] Available at http://unfccc.int/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/items/10326.php.

[16] See http://unfccc.int/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/items/10502.php for more information.

[17] http://unfccc-clearinghouse.org/.

[18] Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 49.

TNAs with their process to formulate and implement national climate action plans. The collaboration was extended to the process to prepare and implement technology action plans, which are the key deliverables of the TNA process for developing countries.

1. Technology Executive Committee

23. In 2017, the TEC continued to address capacity-building issues, including those related to the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities and technologies, to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

24. The TEC produced a series of publications and policy briefs intended to provide guidance to developing countries on several topics, including: the preparation of technology action plans; how best to exchange experience on technologies for adaptation in the context of South–South and triangular cooperation; the enhancement of technological innovation for implementing the Paris Agreement; and how to reach a deeper understanding of challenges and needs in relation to industrial energy and material efficiency in emission-intensive sectors. It also organized a thematic dialogue on industrial energy and material efficiency.

25. Furthermore, the TEC organized a special event exploring how technological innovation can support the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and mid-century strategies. More than 100 experts with a broad range of backgrounds participated in the event.

2. Climate Technology Centre and Network

26. In 2017, the CTCN, as the implementation arm of the Technology Mechanism, enhanced its provision of support to developing countries for their implementation of climate technologies in line with its three core functions:

(a) Responding to requests from developing countries;

(b) Fostering collaboration and access to information;

(c) Strengthening networks, partnerships and capacity-building.

27. The CTCN primarily undertook capacity-building activities in its work under its third function (see para. 26(c) above) at the global, regional and national level.

28. At the global level, the CTCN established a new capacity-building module to help countries develop a pipeline of concept notes on climate technology implementation, and continued to organize through its partner agencies several webinars and to run a secondment programme to enhance the secondees' understanding of climate technology implementation and knowledge transfer.

29. At the regional level, the CTCN held regional forums that further strengthened linkages between CTCN national designated entities (NDEs) and GCF NDAs, and organized workshops bringing together the national focal points of climate initiatives as well as national officials responsible for TNAs, NAPs and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) to discuss country priorities and strengthen synergies to accelerate technology transfer at the national level.

30. At the national level, the CTCN ran the Incubator Programme for the LDCs and continued to undertake capacity-building activities as part of its provision of technical assistance to developing countries that submit requests through their NDEs. The Incubator Programme contributed to enhancing the capacity of the LDCs participating in it to develop high-quality requests for technical assistance and to attract investment, strengthen institutional capacity related to climate technologies, and reinforce national efforts on technology transfer in line with their national development objectives. The Incubator Programme was updated to include a stronger emphasis on the analysis of NDCs as a basis for the identification and prioritization of technology interventions that can support NDC objectives.

31. In terms of fostering collaboration and access to information, the CTCN knowledge management system continued to support developing country NDEs, broader government

decision makers and other climate technology practitioners with technical assistance and a wealth of information provided by consortium partners and network members.

G. Capacity-building elements in the work of the Standing Committee on Finance

32. The SCF addressed capacity-building issues mainly in the contexts of the 2017 SCF forum on the topic of mobilizing finance for climate-resilient infrastructure and of the sixth review of the Financial Mechanism.

33. The 2017 forum, attended by stakeholders from different backgrounds, including multilateral development banks, infrastructure associations, financial institutions and private sector entities, provided a platform for discussing barriers to financing climate-resilient infrastructure and ways to close the financing gap. The forum also enabled participants to explore best practices, lessons learned and opportunities related to strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities to finance climate-resilient infrastructure, and produced recommendations on possible next steps to overcome barriers and close the financing gap. For instance, the forum raised awareness about the need for internationally recognized metrics and standards that can help determine what economic, social, environmental and resilience benefits infrastructure projects can result in. The participants also had a chance to discuss some of the common capacity issues they face when preparing project proposals and seeking funds for climate-resilient infrastructure.

34. An overview of capacity-building and readiness activities undertaken by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism was part of the technical paper produced as expert input by the SCF to the COP on the sixth review of the Financial Mechanism. The overview was prepared in the context of the disbursement of funds for activities in developing country Parties and the adequacy and accessibility thereof. The technical paper included information on the results and impacts achieved by capacity-building initiatives with resources provided through the Financial Mechanism.

III. Capacity-building elements in the work of bodies established under the Kyoto Protocol: Executive Board of the clean development mechanism

35. During the reporting period, the CDM Executive Board provided capacity-building support to a wide range of stakeholders, including designated national authorities (DNAs), to promote the use of the CDM as a tool for monitoring, reporting and verifying emission reductions as well as to monitor sustainable development co-benefits of CDM project activities and programmes of activities.

36. In particular, in 2017 the CDM Executive Board considered providing technical support to national financial institutions and support for convening stakeholders from the financial and investment communities with a view to assisting in arranging co-financing and refinancing of CDM project activities and programmes of activities that face barriers to financing their operations.[19]

37. In the context of its efforts to improve the regional distribution of project activities under the CDM, the CDM Executive Board continued to provide support to DNAs, including by means of regional training events on the CDM through the regional collaboration centres (RCCs), of global DNA Forums and of Nairobi Framework Partnership[20] working sessions held during the regional carbon forums.[21] In 2017, RCCs co-organized 19 capacity-building events – training sessions, workshops and webinars – with

[19] Decision 3/CMP.12, paragraph 4.

[20] See https://nfpartnership.org/partners/.

[21] Decision 6/CMP.11, paragraphs 25 and 26.

the participation of 438 DNAs and other stakeholders. RCC newsletters now reach more than 5,000 stakeholders across the globe and keep them abreast of the latest regional activities.

38. In response to the encouragement of the COP,[22] the CDM Executive Board, through the secretariat, posted a schedule of activities on the UNFCCC Newsroom web pages and UNFCCC social media channels to communicate the sustainable development co-benefits of CDM project activities and programmes of activities. A CDM benefits flyer[23] was developed and made available on the UNFCCC website and physically at COP 23.

39. Partners and cooperating organizations confirmed their commitment to continue supporting the Nairobi Framework Partnership to facilitate climate action through the CDM and other market-based approaches towards achieving the climate goals defined in the Paris Agreement, and they elaborated a medium-term work programme based on three thematic areas: carbon market frameworks, co-led by the World Bank and the UNFCCC secretariat; transparency and monitoring, reporting and verification, co-led by UNDP and UNEP DTU Partnership;[24] and financing mitigation action, co-led by UNDP, the UNFCCC secretariat and the African Development Bank.

40. In 2017, RCCs scaled up assistance to developing countries with a wide array of activities, including incentivizing projects by promoting: the use of certified emission reductions for voluntary climate neutrality under the Climate Neutral Now initiative;[25] the use of the CDM as part of development and climate strategies; and the benefits and potential broadened use of the CDM to underpin climate finance.

IV. Capacity-building elements reported by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund Board

A. Capacity-building elements in the report of the Green Climate Fund

41. During the reporting period, the GCF, in the context of its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, provided financial support to developing countries in UNFCCC-defined priority areas for capacity-building[26] as follows: institutional capacity-building; enhancement and/or creation of an enabling environment; national climate change programmes; vulnerability and adaptation assessment; capacity-building for the implementation of adaptation measures; and education, training and public awareness.

42. Support was provided to NDAs and national focal points to prepare their strategic frameworks, including country programmes, and to develop GCF programme pipelines on mitigation and adaptation using a coherent approach. Furthermore, readiness resources were used to develop country-specific strategic frameworks for engagement with the GCF, building on existing strategies and plans (which include NAMAs, national adaptation programmes of action and NAPs), and to provide support for accreditation for direct access entities. During the reporting period, the GCF approved three requests for support for the formulation of NAPs and commenced disbursement in two of these cases. Furthermore, the readiness proposal template and the GCF readiness guidebook[27] were updated to provide guidance to countries on the formulation of adaptation planning and readiness proposals.

43. Beyond the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, the GCF provided further support for capacity-building and provided the technical assistance components of

[22] Decision 6/CMP.11, paragraph 21.

[23] Available at https://cdm.unfccc.int/newsroom/latestnews/releases/2017/05112_index.html.

[24] The partnership, formerly known as the UNEP Risoe Centre, operates under a tripartite agreement between Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and UNEP.

[25] Decision 1/CP.19, paragraph 5(c). See also http://climateneutralnow.org/Pages/Home.aspx.

[26] Decision 2/CP.7, annex, paragraph 15.

[27] *GCF guidebook. Accessing the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme*. Available at https://www.greenclimate.fund.

projects and programmes approved to receive financing under its adaptation and mitigation thematic funding windows. Such financial support fell under the following UNFCCC-defined priority areas for capacity-building:[28] institutional capacity-building; enhancement and/or creation of an enabling environment; capacity-building for the implementation of adaptation measures; research and systematic observation, including meteorological, hydrological and climatological services; and education, training and public awareness.

44. The GCF secretariat maintained a steady dialogue with all accredited direct access entities and continued to explore opportunities to provide further technical support to NDAs and direct access entities for developing high-quality funding proposals. The GCF organizes an annual workshop to facilitate the engagement between the GCF secretariat and the accredited direct access entities, build their knowledge base to improve project design, enhance peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, strengthen the capacity of entities and countries, and build partnerships to address climate change. In addition, the workshop provided focused guidance on seven funding proposals put forward by accredited direct access entities, along with two enhancing direct access pilot proposals, to prepare them for the next (or final) stage of review. Furthermore, in 2017 the GCF secretariat undertook outreach activities through its regional structured dialogues (with Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific) to increase its engagement with countries and entities in working towards many of the capacity-building goals addressed by the annual workshop.

B. Capacity-building elements in the report of the Global Environment Facility

45. In response to requests of the COP, the GEF secretariat undertook a significant amount of capacity-building in a variety of areas during the reporting period and supported projects cutting across 11 UNFCCC-defined priority areas for capacity-building. The majority of the climate change mitigation projects addressed institutional capacity-building (including the strengthening or establishment of national climate change secretariats or national focal points), the development of national reports such as NCs and BURs, the enhancement and transfer of technologies and the enhancement of enabling conditions. Similarly, in climate change adaptation, efforts were made in the areas of institutional development and strengthening, vulnerability and adaptation assessments, the development of national climate change programmes, the implementation of adaptation measures, research and systemic observation through climate information systems, and public awareness and education programmes.

46. The GEF continued to support the implementation of Action for Climate Empowerment and the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention, including by providing financial resources to non-Annex I Parties, in particular African States, the LDCs and small island developing States. As indicated in its 2017 annual report to the COP, the GEF, in the calendar year 2016, provided a minimum of USD 22 million towards education, training and public awareness through its regular climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes. In addition, many NC projects contained components that provided support in this area.

47. The establishment of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Trust Fund was finalized in September 2016. As indicated in its 2017 annual report to the COP, the GEF, in the calendar year 2016, received pledges amounting to USD 55.6 million for the CBIT Trust Fund and approved USD 12.7 million from the fund for 10 national projects[29] and one global project. The national projects respond to nationally identified priorities and are thus specific to each country's transparency-related capacity-building needs. However, they all seek to enhance coordination at the national level, improve or further develop national measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) frameworks and strengthen the institutional capacity for transparency-related activities. All of the national

[28] As footnote 26 above.

[29] National projects were approved for Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Uganda and Uruguay.

projects have components on greenhouse gas inventories and on the transparency of mitigation actions, and some have a sector-specific focus. Some projects also address the transparency of adaptation actions and of support needed and received. The global project aims to establish the Global Coordination Platform of the CBIT to enable coordination, maximize learning opportunities and foster knowledge-sharing to facilitate transparency enhancements. A dedicated web page on CBIT has been created on the GEF website.[30]

48. In the context of its Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Strategy, the GEF provided targeted support to countries for strengthening their capacities to meet their commitments under the Rio Conventions. This type of capacity development focused on addressing systemic cross-cutting national environmental management matters in GEF recipient countries.

49. GEF agencies continued to support countries during the formulation and development of project proposals through the implementation of capacity-building activities. All the projects that were approved by the GEF in the reporting period have been confirmed to correspond explicitly to national priorities, including those identified in NCs, BURs, TNAs and, since COP 21, intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) or NDCs, as appropriate.

50. Through the GEF Gender Partnership, the GEF secretariat, with the active participation of gender focal points from each GEF agency as well as representatives of the secretariats of the Conventions, the GEF CSO Network (of civil society organizations), the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group and other key partners, promoted an enhanced knowledge base on gender, collaboration and learning.

51. The GEF supports the Global Support Programme (see para. 7(a) above) with a view to providing technical support to developing countries for preparing high-quality NCs and BURs. During the reporting period, activities undertaken under the programme included: reviews and technical backstopping of NCs, BURs, INDCs and NDCs; technical workshops for NCs, BURs, INDCs and NDCs in different regions; sharing of best practices, guidance and methodologies through publications and webinars, including on gender-responsive NCs, NDC implementation and institutional arrangements, the use of the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* and inventory management systems, coastal and water adaptation, and engaging policymakers in climate issues and decisions related to MRV through the BUR process; developing a roster of international experts on the Global Support Programme website; and supporting the establishment of two South–South communities of practice in Latin America and in West Africa as well as a Portuguese-speaking cluster on MRV.

C. Capacity-building elements in the report of the Adaptation Fund Board

52. During the reporting period, the AFB approved an updated framework for the Readiness Programme for Climate Finance and decided to take further steps to integrate the programme into the Adaptation Fund's operations, policies and guidelines, strategies, workplan and budget.

53. Technical assistance grants were made available for NIEs to help strengthen their capability to address and manage environmental and social risks and gender considerations, and readiness workshops helped raise awareness and enable the exchange of information on the Adaptation Fund's environmental, social and gender policies. Provision of support for the development of gender-related capabilities also served the goals of the gender policy and action plan approved by the AFB in March 2016. Furthermore, the AFB made a gender guidance document available to NIEs to assist them in complying with the Adaptation Fund's gender policy and action plan and in mainstreaming gender considerations.

54. Specific capacity-building activities undertaken during the fiscal years 2016 and 2017 included: an NIE seminar; regional climate finance readiness workshops; climate finance webinars; a global climate finance readiness workshop for the LDCs; the support

[30] https://www.thegef.org/topics/capacity-building-initiative-transparency-cbit.

and maintenance of the knowledge exchange platform for direct access, in collaboration with the Climate and Development Knowledge Network, to disseminate content on direct access and NIE adaptation stories; the approval of two South–South cooperation grants to support developing countries in identifying suitable national institutions as NIE candidates and in preparing and submitting an application for accreditation; the approval of six technical assistance grants to help NIEs strengthen their capabilities to address and manage environmental and social risks and gender considerations; and the approval of three technical assistance grants to help NIEs strengthen their capabilities to mainstream gender in policies, procedures and manuals for assessing, mitigating and managing environmental and social risks in projects and programmes.

55. The Adaptation Fund secretariat continued to implement its communications and outreach strategy for the Readiness Programme for Climate Finance as well as its strategic partnership with the Climate and Development Knowledge Network through the joint initiative Climate Finance Ready.[31] During the reporting period, the AFB increased its efforts to disseminate news and stories about the Adaptation Fund's work, including news releases and project stories in multiple languages. The secretariat also increased its media outreach efforts to further highlight the value of the Adaptation Fund, including through newsletters, and enhanced engagement with NIEs and other stakeholders to cross-promote products and project activities. YouTube videos were prepared, and new brochures, flyers (in multiple languages), briefing notes, posters and bookmarks were created and disseminated at events, conferences and workshops.

[31] See https://climatefinanceready.org/.

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda
Matters relating to the least developed countries

The 33rd meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Report by the secretariat

Summary

The 33rd meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group was held in Sao Tome, Sao Tome and Principe, from 5 to 9 February 2018. At the meeting, the group developed its rolling work programme for 2018–2019. In addition, the group finalized its recommendations to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on updating the least developed countries work programme, and its consideration of needs related to adaptation arising from the Paris Agreement and the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-first session. The meeting included interaction with: officials from the Government of Sao Tome and Principe on the country's work on adaptation; the secretariat of the Green Climate Fund on how best to support developing countries in accessing funding for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans; the Global Environment Facility and its agencies on their continued provision of support for the implementation of the least developed countries work programme, which includes the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action; and other relevant organizations on collaboration in providing support to the least developed countries.

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I.	Rolling work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2018–2019	18
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I. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its twenty-first session, extended the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) under its current terms of reference[1] to cover the period 2016–2020, and mandated the LEG to undertake a number of additional activities,[2] including to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.[3]

2. Accordingly, the LEG is mandated to develop a two-year rolling work programme for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its first sessional meeting of each year and to report on its work to the SBI at each of its sessions.[4]

II. Summary of the 33rd meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

A. Proceedings

3. The 33rd meeting of the LEG was held in Sao Tome, Sao Tome and Principe, from 5 to 9 February 2018.

4. The LEG extended invitations to the secretariats of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its agencies, and other relevant organizations, to participate in the meeting in order to discuss the provision of support to the least developed countries (LDCs). Representatives of the following entities took part in the meeting: the GCF secretariat, the GEF secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development serving as the secretariat of the NAP Global Network. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Policy Management (OPM) also provided inputs to the meeting.

5. The meeting included interaction with the Government of Sao Tome and Principe to discuss the country's progress, challenges, gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs).

6. The LEG elected the following officers:

(a) Mr. Naresh Sharma (Nepal) as Chair;

(b) Mr. Aderito Santana (Sao Tome and Principe) as Vice-Chair;

(c) Mr. Benon Yassin (Malawi) as anglophone Rapporteur;

(d) Ms. Mery Yaou (Togo) as francophone Rapporteur;

(e) Mr. Adao Barbosa (Timor-Leste) as lusophone Rapporteur.

7. The LEG took note of the following members that are representing it in collaborative activities with other bodies under the Convention:

(a) Ms. Beth Lavender (Canada) and Mr. Santana in the Adaptation Committee (AC) NAP task force;

(b) Mr. Fredrick Manyika (United Republic of Tanzania) in the work of the AC on the technical examination process on adaptation;

(c) Mr. Idrissa Semde (Burkina Faso) in the task force on displacement of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;

[1] Decisions 29/CP.7, 7/CP.9, 4/CP.11, 8/CP.13, 6/CP.16, 5/CP.17, 12/CP.18 and 3/CP.20.

[2] See decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45, decision 4/CP.21, paragraph 12, and decision 19/CP.21, paragraphs 1–3, and document FCCC/SBI/2017/19, paragraph 73.

[3] Decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45.

[4] Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 3.

(d) Mr. Ewin Künzi (Austria) and Mr. Sharma in collaboration with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC);

(e) Ms. Yaou in the work of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building and the work of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP).

B. Status of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

1. Progress made by developing countries in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

8. The LEG noted that most developing countries have launched their process to formulate and implement NAPs and that they are primarily undertaking activities related to formulating their NAPs.

9. The LEG also noted that 10 developing countries had completed and submitted their NAPs on NAP Central:[5] Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Kenya, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan and Togo. It further noted that none of those countries had as yet applied for funding from the GCF for implementing the prioritized policies, projects or programmes in their NAPs.

2. Progress made in relation to support provided

10. The LEG took note of the information provided at the meeting on support provided for the process to formulate and implement NAPs between September 2017 and February 2018,[6] as summarized in paragraphs 11–17 below.

11. The GCF reported that, as at 9 February 2018, a total of 47 project proposals[7] had been submitted under the support modality for NAPs under its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, which provides up to USD 3 million per country.[8] One country made its submission through a national delivery partner, while the rest made their submissions through multilateral implementing entities. Of the submitted proposals, 17 had been approved or endorsed (9 approved and 8 endorsed). Of the 30 proposals that were not approved or endorsed, 26 were with the respective national designated authority pending their resubmission on the basis of written feedback from the GCF secretariat. The GCF also reported that the amount of funding requested in each proposal ranged from USD 2.26 to 2.76 million.

12. The GEF reported that, as at 9 February 2018, a total of six project proposals had been approved, seeking to support activities related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs. Four other proposals were in the technically cleared pipeline of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF).

13. In the reporting period the LEG conducted two regional training workshops on NAPs: one for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 4 to 7 September 2017; and one for African francophone countries, in Rabat, Morocco, from 25 to 27 September 2017. The former was attended by 71 participants (48 male and 23 female) and the latter by 58 participants (24 male and 34 female). In addition, the LEG conducted a regional NAP Expo in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, on 11 and 12 September 2017. Further

[5] http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Pages/national-adaptation-plans.aspx.

[6] This chapter covers information made available to the LEG by the time of its 32nd meeting by the respective bodies and organizations.

[7] From the following countries: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bhutan, Cameroon, Colombia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Serbia, Seychelles, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

[8] See GCF Board decision B.13/09, paragraph (e).

details on the technical guidance and support for NAPs provided by the LEG are provided in chapter III.A below.

14. Since September 2017 the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme, jointly administered by UNDP and UNEP, has provided technical support to 12 countries[9] for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. A regional training workshop for Asia was held in Seoul from 13 to 16 September 2017. The workshop focused on increasing the capacity of policymakers and technical experts on effective decision-making for tackling climate change adaptation for sustainable management and development of water resources.

15. FAO reported that it has continued to support 7 global and regional programmes and 10 national programmes, covering 10 LDCs and 22 developing countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean, on activities related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs. Furthermore, through the joint FAO–UNDP Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans programme,[10] 11 countries[11] have continued to receive support for integrating agriculture-related climate change risks and opportunities into their NAPs.

16. The NAP Global Network conducted a targeted topics forum in Mexico City, Mexico, in July 2017 on financing the process to formulate and implement NAPs. Also, it facilitated peer-to-peer exchanges between Albania, Jamaica, Peru and Saint Lucia on communications and sectoral budgeting topics.

C. Status of implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

17. According to information received from the GEF,[12] a total of 252 projects for the implementation of national adaptation programmes of actions (NAPAs) have been approved by the GEF Council for funding from the LDCF since its establishment in 2001. In addition, the GEF reported that the demand for LDCF resources continues to exceed the funds available for new approvals. As at 9 February 2017, 24 NAPA implementation project proposals submitted by the LDCs, accounting for a total of USD 170.5 million, had been technically cleared by the GEF secretariat and were awaiting the availability of resources from the LDCF.

18. As at 9 August 2017 the total cumulative donor pledges to the LDCF amounted to USD 1.32 billion[13] and the total paid contributions amounted to USD 1.2 billion.[14] The funding ceiling for each LDC is currently at USD 40 million, in accordance with the principle of equitable access.

19. At least five LDCs[15] have revised and/or updated their NAPAs. The LEG took note that the LDCs continue to rely on technical guidance and advice for revising and updating their NAPAs and that it stands ready to provide support upon request.

[9] Four LDCs (Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Niger) and 8 non-LDCs (Albania, Armenia, Côte d'Ivoire, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Uruguay and Uzbekistan).

[10] See http://www.fao.org/in-action/naps/en.

[11] Colombia, Gambia, Guatemala, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zambia.

[12] In GEF document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.23/03/Rev.01 and updates provided to the secretariat.

[13] Following new pledges from Belgium (EUR 7 million), Germany (EUR 50 million), Sweden (185 million Swedish krona) and the Walloon region of Belgium (EUR 3.25 million).

[14] See https://www.thegef.org/topics/least-developed-countries-fund-ldcf.

[15] Bangladesh, Bhutan, Haiti, Malawi and Senegal.

III. Progress in the implementation of the rolling work programme for 2016–2017

A. Technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans and the work of the national adaptation plan technical working group

1. Training on national adaptation plans

20. The LEG took note of the successful completion of the regional training workshops on NAPs, as issues to inform further support and future training, under its work programme for 2016–2017.[16] In total, 292 participants (136 female and 156 male) attended the workshops. The participants were drawn from: national agencies responsible for NAPs; line ministries or agencies playing active roles in adaptation planning and implementation at the national level, such as in finance and planning; GCF national designated authorities; and other relevant national institutions, such as academic institutions. The workshops were organized with the support of the NAP technical working group. Consequently, the workshops involved representatives of relevant organizations serving as resource persons on specific topics and providing information on how countries can access support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

21. The LEG took note of the challenges and needs identified by the participants as issues under the following broad categories:

(a) Having best available data and tools for assessments;

(b) Making swift tangible progress in accessing funding from the GCF for the formulation of NAPs;

(c) Building long-term capacity for adaptation planning and implementation;

(d) Having training and outreach materials for use at the national level;

(e) Facilitating coordination among different partners on the provision of support;

(f) Costing adaptation options, including costs in the future, to facilitate ranking options and designing implementation;

(g) Effectively capturing key vulnerabilities and risks concerning systems that are important to a country and communicating them to all stakeholders;

(h) Coordinating the assessment, planning and implementation of adaptation across levels and scales and in collaboration with other frameworks and priorities;

(i) Application of integrative systems approaches to adaptation planning as a way to manage multiple entry points, driving factors, key players and stakeholders.

22. The LEG agreed that the identified challenges and needs referred to in paragraph 21 above should be used to inform the future support and future training provided by the LEG and others to the LDCs.

23. The LEG decided to take the following next steps:

(a) To prepare a report on the workshops (including relevant inputs from the NAP Expos) and to document key outputs, including from the sessions on accessing the GCF, on NAP Central to serve as resources for countries;

(b) To update and/or develop training materials, including on accessing the GCF in coordination with the GCF secretariat;

(c) To continue efforts to coordinate the training undertaken by different actors so as to ensure a continuum between LEG materials and those of other agencies.

[16] See document FCCC/SBI/2016/7, annex I.

24. The LEG also decided to conduct the next round of regional training workshops on NAPs in 2019. The specific focus and objective thereof will be developed by the NAP technical working group.

2. Integrative framework for national adaptation plans and the Sustainable Development Goals

25. The LEG took note of the successful application of the integrative framework for NAPs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (NAP-SDG iFrame) in guiding the regional training workshops referred to in paragraph 20 above. The LEG noted that the NAP-SDG iFrame helped to demonstrate how systems approaches are helpful in focusing stocktaking, assessments, actions and monitoring, and facilitate achieving coherence and synergy of adaptation across scales, levels and frameworks.

26. The LEG also took note of the ongoing work under the NAP technical working group on preparing supplements to the guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, describing the NAP-SDG iFrame and supporting tools. It agreed to compile a list of systems and relevant tools to enrich the supplements.

3. Supplements to the guidelines for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans

27. The LEG welcomed the publication of the supplement to the guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, prepared by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, entitled *10 best bet innovations for adaptation in agriculture*.[17]

28. It also took note of the following supplements that are under development, some of which are in the final review stages:

(a) *Supplementary NAP guidelines for Systemic Subnational Adaptation: Experiences from the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL)*, by the United Nations Capital Development Fund;

(b) *Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction in National Adaptation Plans: A supplement to NAP technical guidelines*, by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR);

(c) *Addressing agriculture, forestry and fisheries in National Adaptation Plans – Supplementary guidelines*,[18] by FAO.

29. The LEG further took note of the plans of the respective organizations to update the following supplements[19] to integrate the latest developments since their development and lessons learned from their application:

(a) *Water Supplement to the Technical Guidelines: Supporting the national adaptation plan (NAP) process*, by the Global Water Partnership, to align with the latest frameworks, including the Paris Agreement and the SDGs;

(b) *WHO guidance to protect health from climate change through health adaptation planning*, by the World Health Organization (WHO), to reflect lessons learned during the training workshops conducted using the supplement;

(c) *Joint Principles for Adaptation*, a national adaptation policy assessment tool, by Southern Voices on Adaptation, to integrate aspects of accessing the GCF readiness support for NAPs for local communities.

4. Open NAPs

30. The LEG noted that the NAP case studies at the national level (Open NAPs) for Bhutan, Haiti, Madagascar, Malawi and Tuvalu were successfully used at the regional

[17] Available at http://hdl.handle.net/10568/89192.

[18] Available at http://www.fao.org/in-action/naps/adaptation-planning/guidelines.

[19] All available at http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Guidelines/Pages/Supplements.aspx.

training workshops on NAPs referred to in paragraph 20 above. They helped to provide a quick practical overview of how the process to formulate and implement NAPs can be rolled out at the national level.

31. The LEG agreed to expand the Open NAP case studies to more countries (including at the regional level) and to continue to use them at NAP-related events.

5. Supporting the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans through NAP Central

32. The LEG commended the countries that are continuing to share their NAPs on NAP Central, noting that there are now NAPs from 10 countries on the platform.[20]

33. The LEG also noted the continued development of NAP Central to service information needs for NAPs, including:

(a) A portal housing data[21] to support the assessment by the SBI of the progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

(b) The online implementation of the NAP process tracking tool for documenting the progress being made by each country in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, capturing key milestones, outputs and planned activities;

(c) Managing the online questionnaire on NAPs, through which Parties provide information on their progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

(d) The global NAP calendar, capturing information from all partners on the different meetings, training workshops and conferences related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

(e) Providing information on LEG NAP events, such as the NAP Expos and regional training workshops;

(f) Facilitating navigation to different online resources that are useful in the process to formulate and implement NAPs from different partners.

6. Workplan of the national adaptation plan technical working group

34. The LEG noted the progress made by the NAP technical working group in continuing to support the work of the LEG relating to technical guidance and support for NAPs.

35. The NAP technical working group held a meeting during COP 23. The meeting was attended by representatives of 19 organizations,[22] who discussed supplements to the guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, Open NAPs, the NAP Expo and the coordination of training on NAPs.

36. The LEG decided to include an additional topic, on applying big data to support adaptation planning and implementation, to the workplan of the NAP technical working group.

37. The LEG agreed to continue to strengthen the work of the NAP technical working group through continued engagement in the development of technical methodologies for NAPs and strategic collaboration with relevant organizations, regional centres and networks. It also agreed to continue to seize appropriate opportunities to convene meetings of the group.

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[20] http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Pages/national-adaptation-plans.aspx.

[21] See http://unfccc.int/10544.

[22] Climate Service Center Germany; International Center for Tropical Agriculture; CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security; FAO; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit; GWP; Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee; NAP Global Network; Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation; Southern Voices on Adaptation; United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; UNDP; UNEP; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response; WHO; and World Meteorological Organization.

including in conjunction with the NAP Expos and sessions of the COP and the subsidiary bodies, to continue to advance its work.

B. Matters relating to access to the Green Climate Fund

38. The LEG held discussions with the GCF secretariat in relation to the mandates[23] from the COP on enhancing developing countries' access to GCF funding for NAPs.

39. The LEG provided an update on the development of the frequently asked questions addressing the emerging needs and challenges faced by countries in accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The GCF secretariat highlighted the publication *GCF in Brief: Adaptation Planning*,[24] which contains a list of frequently asked questions and could serve as an additional reference for the frequently asked questions that are being developed.

40. The LEG also provided an update on the development of the indicative sets of activities, reflecting different national circumstances and stages involved, for inclusion in proposals for accessing funding from the GCF for the formulation of NAPs. The initial set covers three scenarios for early, intermediate and advanced progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

41. The LEG and the GCF secretariat discussed plans for the GCF-related sessions at the 2018 NAP Expo. The GCF secretariat will continue to conduct sessions targeting country experts (NAP teams and GCF focal points) on accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The major focus will be on strengthening the capacity of country teams to develop good-quality proposals that respond to countries' specific contexts and strategic priorities. The sessions will address the key lessons drawn from existing proposals, including on alignment with the objectives of the process to formulate and implement NAPs, how to address baselines, applying a theory of change, and alignment with national priorities.

42. The LEG and the GCF secretariat took note of other ongoing activities: the continued successful involvement of the GCF secretariat in LEG meetings, NAP Expos, regional training workshops and related events to address issues relating to the LDCs in accessing GCF funding for NAPs; the sharing of information on the experience of and challenges faced by the LDCs and other developing countries in accessing funding; and the sharing of information with the GCF secretariat on expediting the provision of support to the LDCs and other developing countries for formulating and implementing their NAPs.

C. NAP Expo

43. The LEG reaffirmed that the 2018 NAP Expo will be held from 4 to 6 April. It welcomed the offer of the Government of Egypt to host the event in Sharm El Sheikh.

44. The LEG took note of the offers of relevant organizations to contribute towards or lead the discussions on some of the topics to be addressed at the NAP Expo. Some organizations also offered to mobilize and fund resource persons and additional participants from developing countries to attend the NAP Expo.

45. The LEG also took note of SBI 47 having noted that the AC workshop planned to take place at NAP Expo 2018 will consider the experience of countries in accessing the GCF Readiness Programme for adaptation with a view to informing the assessment, at SBI 48, of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The LEG further took note of the invitation from SBI 47 to the LEG to include an item on the experience of countries in accessing support for NAPs from the GCF in the programme for the NAP Expo 2018.[25]

46. The LEG also took note of the following invitations for it to host regional NAP Expos in 2018: from WHO to convene a regional NAP Expo during the 3rd Inter-Ministerial

[23] Decision 19/CP.21, paragraphs 2 and 10, and decision 6/CP.22, paragraph 7.

[24] Available at https://www.greenclimate.fund/-/gcf-in-brief-adaptation-planning.

[25] FCCC/SBI/2017/19, paragraphs 71 and 72.

Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, to take place in Libreville, Gabon, from 11 to 15 June 2018; and from the organizers of the 12th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to convene a regional NAP Expo during the conference, which is planned to take place in Malawi in June 2018. The LEG decided to pursue organizing regional NAP Expos as invited, and that further details will be developed with the support of the NAP technical working group. The LEG noted the value of having the NAP Expo every two years so as to alternate with regional NAP Expos.

47. The LEG noted that the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States is exploring how it can support the organization of regional NAP Expos with the aim of strengthening the linkages between climate change adaptation and the global development agenda for the LDCs.

48. The LEG organizes the NAP Expos through an advisory group composed of representatives of Parties, UNFCCC bodies and relevant organizations. The group contributes towards mobilizing all relevant stakeholders, mobilizing funding for participants from developing countries, designing the programme for the event, identifying speakers and providing other inputs required for the success of the event.

D. Consideration of ways to assist with the implementation of national adaptation plans

49. The LEG initiated its consideration of the mandate from the SBI for the AC and the LEG, following the 2018 NAP Expo, to consider ways to assist with the implementation of NAPs.[26] The LEG agreed that it would help to first identify the specific needs of the countries regarding implementing the policies, projects and programmes identified in their NAPs, including through country surveys and interaction with the organizations that support the countries.

E. Needs related to adaptation arising from the Paris Agreement and the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-first session

50. The LEG continued its consideration of the needs related to adaptation for the LDCs arising from the implementation of the Paris Agreement and other outcomes of COP 21 following the stepwise approach of gathering information, identifying needs, getting feedback from Parties and organizations, and finalizing the outcome.

51. The work involved mapping what is new and different in terms of adaptation planning and policy under the Paris Agreement and other outcomes of COP 21 that may inform possible updates to the guidance on NAPs. It included considering technical issues for which the LDCs may require support in order to factor them into their work on adaptation, as well as obligations and process-related issues. In some cases, the issues are associated with needs that were elaborated with the support of the NAP technical working group. The needs were presented at the LEG side events at SBI 46 and 47 to gather inputs from Parties and relevant organizations, and were also considered at meetings of the LEG with organizations, regional centres and networks.

52. The final list of needs is provided in the table below. The LEG noted that the priority needs that are not necessarily solely related to the Paris Agreement. As one of the next steps, the LEG agreed to consider these needs together with the general gaps and needs experienced by the LDCs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs and those covered by the LDC work programme.

[26] FCCC/SBI/2017/19, paragraph 73.

Needs related to adaptation arising from the Paris Agreement and the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-first session

Area	*Articles of the Paris Agreement /decisions*	*Need*
Climate scenarios, science, translation to local context, etc.	Article 7, paragraphs 7 and 9	Capacity to work effectively with climate data and climate change scenarios at the planning stage, including the application of the global temperature limit of less than 2 °C
Risk and vulnerability assessment and risk management	Article 7, paragraphs 7 and 9	Capacity to frame, analyse, define baselines, assess, manage and monitor climate change risk and vulnerability at relevant levels and scales
Linkage with development agenda	Article 2 and Article 7, paragraph 1	Capacity to effectively address climate change adaptation within the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals in the national context
Monitoring and evaluation	Articles 7, 13 and 14	Systematic monitoring and observations relevant to adaptation planning and implementation, and subsequent monitoring and evaluation of adaptation outcomes and impacts
Accessing support	Article 4, paragraph 5, Article 7, paragraph 13, and decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41–46	Adequate and effective mobilization of and access to financial and other forms of support, including from the Green Climate Fund, to support the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans
Cross-cutting issues	Article 7, paragraph 5	Adequate engagement of multiple stakeholders in managing adaptation planning and implementation at multiple levels and scales, taking into account elements of successful adaptation (guiding principles)
Active learning from practice	Article 7, paragraph 9	Capacity to utilize experience and lessons learned during adaptation planning and implementation to inform future adaptation efforts, including by identifying and promoting best practices

F. Technical guidance and advice on considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems in adaptation planning and implementation

53. The LEG continued its consideration of the draft paper on considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems in adaptation planning and implementation. It considered the different factors of vulnerability, building on the work done at its previous meeting, with a view to further refining the methodology for identifying the most vulnerable. It agreed that it will be important to make a distinction between vulnerable groups and communities, and vulnerable ecosystems. The LEG noted that vulnerable communities and groups may include: communities living in small island developing States vulnerable to sea level rise and other socioeconomic stressors; communities living in mountainous ecosystems; communities living in flood-prone areas; women, youth and the elderly; the extreme poor; marginalized groups; and indigenous groups. The LEG also noted that vulnerable ecosystems may include: those highly sensitive to climate change; those with unique value (e.g. global

heritage, provision of critical ecosystem services); and those threatened by other non-climatic stressors, such as land-use pressure and natural disasters.

54. The LEG agreed to continue to work on the paper with NWP partner organizations. The paper will be used as part of the supplements to the guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

G. Regional approaches to adaptation planning and implementation

55. The LEG continued its consideration of technical guidance and advice for the LDCs with regard to regional approaches to adaptation planning.[27] It emphasized the value of pursuing regional approaches in various areas of adaptation planning and implementation. It acknowledged that regional approaches would have more value in some areas (such as data and assessment) than in others.

56. The LEG noted that experience differs regarding support for regional programmes or projects. It noted that, on the one hand, adaptation programmes and projects implemented through the Financial Mechanism are developed and led by countries and are hence mostly national in scope; while, on the other hand, under the GEF for example, there have been regional programmes developed and implemented with the assistance of regional and international entities.

57. The LEG agreed to update its working paper on the matter taking into account the observations referred to in paragraphs 55 and 56 above.

H. Supporting the assessment by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation of progress made in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

58. The LEG continued its work in supporting the assessment by the SBI of progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.[28]

59. Following its previous meeting, the LEG extended an invitation to various organizations, including through the NAP technical working group, to contribute towards the assessment by analysing progress made in relation to relevant topics and areas. The LEG noted with appreciation the inputs from the following bodies and organizations:

(a) Climate Service Center Germany, on the state of the science of scenarios, especially looking at the less than 2 °C goal, and on how countries have applied the best available science in their work on NAPs;

(b) Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, on country experience in monitoring and evaluating the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

(c) NAP Global Network, on how developing countries have integrated gender considerations into the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

(d) Southern Voices on Adaptation, on participation and transparency in the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

(e) UNDP, on the progress made by developing countries towards enhancing the coherence of adaptation and development planning through the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

60. The LEG noted that the data and information underpinning the assessment were compiled and shared[29] with all relevant actors and players to ensure that the analyses and the subsequent assessment are based on a common pool of evidence.

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[27] See document FCCC/SBI/2016/7, annex I.

[28] As per decision 4/CP.21, paragraphs 11–13.

[29] See http://unfccc.int/10544.

61. The LEG reviewed the preparations for the expert meeting to assess progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. It noted that the meeting would involve a rich diversity of participants, including country NAP experts and representatives of the organizations that are mandated to provide support to developing countries for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The meeting also engaged an independent panel of experts to assess progress by reviewing the evidence on progress as presented by the countries and contributing organizations and the discussions from the different sessions, and to help the LEG and the AC to draw conclusions on the progress made.

I. Recommendations to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on updating the least developed countries work programme

62. The LEG continued its consideration of the mandate from the COP to consider the need to update the least developed countries work programme and to make recommendations for consideration at SBI 48 with a view to those recommendations being forwarded to COP 24.[30] It took into account the submissions[31] from Ethiopia on behalf of the LDCs and from Bulgaria on behalf the European Union and its member States.

63. The LEG noted that the least developed countries work programme is aimed at implementing Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention, whereby Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the LDCs in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology. The LEG also noted that the work programme cuts across the United Nations system and that under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol it covers climate change adaptation, mitigation and support.

64. The LEG agreed that the least developed countries work programme needs to be updated to take into account key developments and agreements since its establishment in 2001, including the establishment of the process to formulate and implement NAPs and the GCF, and the adoption of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. The LEG also agreed that the updated work programme should build on the existing elements. It further agreed that the work programme could include elements of providing support to countries in the transition from LDC status.

65. The LEG developed, for consideration at SBI 48, the following possible elements of the updated least developed countries work programme, which are based on various assessments of gaps and LDCs' needs for support as well as on the considerations referred to in paragraphs 62 and 63 above:

(a) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national climate change secretariats and/or focal points to enable the effective implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement in the LDCs;

(b) Providing ongoing training to develop the capacity of LDC negotiators, experts and focal points to participate effectively in the climate change process;

(c) Supporting the processes to formulate and implement NAPs and related relevant adaptation plans and strategies and the process of preparing, communicating and maintaining successive nationally determined contributions with a view to contributing to sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;

(d) Regular capacity-building, including through training and other technical support, for the LDCs to effectively access the GCF;

(e) Promoting public and multi-stakeholder participation in climate change programmes to ensure adequate and effective action on climate change;

(f) Developing and transferring technologies for the effective implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement;

[30] Decision 19/CP.21, paragraph 3.

[31] Available at http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionportal.

(g) Strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support the effective implementation of adaptation, the reduction of climate-related disasters and the achievement of the SDGs in the face of climate change;

(h) Capacity-building, including through regular training, for the LDCs to effectively engage in the transparency framework, the global stocktake and the submission and implementation of nationally determined contributions, adaptation communications and other reporting requirements under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and to address needs related to adaptation arising from the implementation of the Paris Agreement and other outcomes of COP 21 as presented in the table above;

(i) Promoting measures for a smooth transition from LDC status;

(j) Promoting measures to integrate climate change adaptation into national development planning, including the consideration of climate change in addressing the SDGs.

66. The LEG also identified the following important considerations for the updating of the LDC work programme:

(a) The work programme should contribute towards reducing vulnerability and facilitating adaptation efforts in the broader context of sustainable development in the LDCs;

(b) All LDCs need to receive support in addressing climate change, including through effective national institutions such as well-functioning national designated authorities and national implementing entities accredited for accessing funding from the GCF;

(c) The implementation of the work programme should be undertaken in a manner that promotes synergies and avoids duplication with other processes and programmes.

J. Addressing the mandates contained in decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45

67. The LEG noted that SBI 47[32] welcomed the technical work undertaken by the AC and the LEG in response to the mandates in decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45, and initiated consideration of their recommendations. The outcomes of the initial consideration were captured in an informal note[33] prepared by the co-facilitators of the negotiations on the matter. The LEG also noted that SBI 48 will continue[34] consideration of the recommendations, before their subsequent consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session.

IV. Discussions with the Government of Sao Tome and Principe

68. The LEG held discussions with the adaptation team of the Government of Sao Tome and Principe on the progress made as well as gaps and challenges faced by Sao Tome and Principe in addressing adaptation. The team was led by the Ministry of Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Environment and included officials from the ministries of agriculture, rural development and fisheries, environment, forestry, finance, commerce, and defence, and focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. It also included experts from the University of Sao Tome and Principe.

69. The Government highlighted the country's key economic sectors, namely agriculture, fisheries, tourism and services. It also highlighted the major climate change risks, namely rising temperatures, declining precipitation and increasing intensity of storms, which all have

[32] FCCC/SBI/2017/19, paragraph 49.

[33] Available at http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/bonn_nov_2017/in-session/application/pdf/sb47_isbi10_12_sbsta_4_informal_note_ac_and_leg_.pdf.

[34] FCCC/SBI/2017/19, paragraph 80.

an impact on the aforementioned sectors. Exacerbated by the geographic location of the country as a small island developing State, these climate change risks pose significant development challenges for the country.

70. The Government provided background information and updates on past and ongoing adaptation activities, including four NAPA projects implemented with funding from the LDCF, two of which had completed implementation[35] and two were under implementation.[36]

71. The Government also provided details on the country's institutional arrangements for adaptation. A National Climate Change Committee was created through decree no. 13/2012[37] to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of climate change activities at the national level, including their monitoring and evaluation. It is chaired by the office of the President and includes representatives of all key ministries and agencies.

72. The Government further provided information on its work in the process to formulate and implement the country's NAP, which builds on the activities referred to in paragraphs 70 and 71 above. The Government is working with UNDP to access funding from the GCF to advance its work. Initial milestones include GCF readiness and preparatory activities for building the enabling environment for the formulation and implementation of the country's NAP, for which a GCF readiness proposal amounting to USD 3 million has been developed and will be submitted to the GCF secretariat for approval.

73. The Government took the LEG and all other meeting participants on a study tour of coastal protection adaptation activities: to the village of Ribeira Afonso to see the breakwater structures built to reduce wave energy and prevent community flooding; and to the village of Malanza to see adaptation structures built to protect coastal communities against rainwater and river flooding.

74. The Government highlighted two key challenges, namely limited human and financial capacity, and the difficulty of aligning external projects with national needs and priorities as the projects have so far been developed to meet the criteria and requirements of international funding agencies.

V. Collaboration with other bodies and programmes under the Convention

75. The LEG took note of the following collaborative activities with relevant bodies and programmes under the Convention that have taken place since its 32nd meeting:

(a) Continued engagement in the AC task force on NAPs and the work of the AC on the technical examination process on adaptation;

(b) Engagement in the task force on displacement of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism;

(c) Collaboration with the TEC on developing a paper on aligning technology needs assessments and NAPs. The paper is part of the response to the mandate from the COP requesting the TEC, in collaboration with the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the AC and the LEG, to consider how it can help Parties to align their technology needs assessments with the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

(d) Engagement with NWP partner organizations in developing a paper on strengthening considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems, in the assessment by the SBI of the progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, and in training on NAPs, the NAP Expo and Open NAPs;

[35] "Sao Tome and Principe Adaptation to Climate Change" and "Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity of Most Vulnerable Sao Tomean's Livestock-keeping Households".

[36] "Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Sao Tome and Principe for Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation to Climate Change" and "Enhancing Capacities of Rural Communities to Pursue Climate Resilient Livelihood Options in the Sao Tome and Principe Districts of Caué, Me-Zochi, Principe, Lemba, Cantagalo and Lobata".

[37] Published in the Daily Gazette of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, no. 81, 11 July 2012.

(e) Engagement with the Paris Committee on Capacity-building regarding the capacity-building needs of the LDCs.

76. The LEG participated in and delivered a presentation on technical guidance and support for developing countries at the GCF technical seminar on strengthening proposals for accessing GCF readiness support for NAPs, held on 11 November 2017 in Bonn, Germany. The LEG also took part in the GCF annual meeting to enhance cooperation and coherence of engagement between the GCF and the UNFCCC constituted bodies, held on 15 November 2017 in Bonn. The LEG provided an update on its continued collaboration with the GCF secretariat to support the LDCs in accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

VI. Discussions with relevant organizations

77. The LEG held discussions with the representatives of the GCF secretariat, the GEF secretariat, UNEP and the NAP Global Network on emerging gaps and needs related to support of the LDCs and further collaboration in supporting the LDCs in relation to adaptation. It also took note of related inputs from FAO, UNDP, OPM and other organizations. Specific activities relating to providing support to the LDCs for their NAPAs and NAPs are detailed in chapter II.B and C above.

78. With regard to financial support, the GEF secretariat provided an update on its work in developing approaches for a more strategic and innovative use of the funds in the LDCF pipeline. Currently, all LDCs are allocated an equal funding ceiling for each LDC at USD 40 million. Projects in the pipeline are allocated resources on a first come, first served basis. The new approaches may include the need for the LDCs to update projects that have been technically cleared by the GEF secretariat and are awaiting the availability of resources from the LDCF, but have been in the pipeline for over a year before resources are available.

79. Regarding providing support to the LDCs for accessing funding from the GCF for the formulation and implementation of their NAPs, it was observed that not all LDCs are actively receiving support to help them to formulate proposals for accessing funding from the GCF. It was agreed that it will be helpful to continue to create awareness and mobilize all partners to ensure that all LDCs are receiving support for preparing proposals. Furthermore, it was acknowledged that there is a need to help countries to apply a longer-term perspective in their GCF readiness proposals. Further issues related to the GCF are covered in chapter III.B above.

80. It was agreed that there is a need for enhanced coordination among the different organizations and agencies providing support to developing countries for their NAPs.

81. Furthermore, it was observed that countries sometimes face competing domestic priorities and agenda that may have an impact on progress.

82. UNDP and UNEP reported that a follow-up to the LDC negotiators capacity-building programme is under development, with a focus on capacity-building for accessing climate finance.

83. Regarding technical guidance on NAPs and the work of the NAP technical working group, the LEG provided an update on the development of further materials to assist countries in formulating and implementing their NAPs, including the NAP-SDG iFrame and the other supplements referred to in paragraph 28 above.

84. Regarding the 2018 NAP Expo, as part of resource mobilization activities for the event, the LEG repeated its invitation to organizations to make offers to support the event. It highlighted that several organizations have made offers to contribute towards or lead discussions on topics at the NAP Expo. The LEG provided updates on potential regional NAP Expos to take place in 2018.

85. Regarding technical guidance and advice on regional approaches to adaptation planning, the organizations offered to share information with the LEG on experience and good practices from their respective regional programmes that could help in the development

of the supplements to the guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs on the topic (see chapter III.F above).

86. Similarly, on technical guidance and advice on considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems, the LEG informed the organizations of the progress made with the NWP in developing a paper on the topic, and that the LEG will continue to solicit input for the paper.

87. Lastly, the LEG introduced the mandate from the SBI for the AC and the LEG, following the 2018 NAP Expo, to consider ways to assist with the implementation of NAPs. It highlighted the plans to solicit inputs from organizations during the NAP Expo and via other channels on their experience of specific needs relating to supporting developing countries in implementing adaptation policies, projects and programmes.

VII. Rolling work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2018–2019

88. The LEG developed its two-year rolling work programme for 2018–2019, which takes into account new mandates from the COP and the SBI, emerging gaps in and needs for support of the LDCs, and its vision of supporting the LDCs in producing good-quality NAPs by 2018, or by 2020 at the latest.

89. The work programme contains the following clusters of activities for assisting the LDCs in addressing adaptation and contributing towards sustainable development:

(a) Supporting the SBI in the assessment of progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, and the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention and assessment thereof;

(b) Advancing NAPs through technical guidelines and support, training, open collaboration, case studies, information systems, global and regional outreach and engagement events;

(c) Supporting the implementation of NAPs;

(d) Providing technical guidance and support for NAPAs and the least developed countries work programme;

(e) Enhancing LDCs' access to GCF funding for NAPs (by engaging with the GCF secretariat);

(f) Interaction with the LDCs and other Parties and relevant organizations;

(g) Collaborating with relevant bodies under the Convention;

(h) Engaging regional centres and networks and relevant organizations.

90. The work programme is presented in annex I and is arranged according to the work areas of the LEG.

Annex I

Rolling work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2018–2019

Modality	*Work area expected outcome*	*Main activities*	*Outputs*
CMA/COP/SBI support	Successfully supporting the SBI assessment of progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs referred to in decision 4/CP.21, paragraphs 11–13 (NAPs)	Organize a meeting of Party experts on progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, in collaboration with the AC, and prepare a summary report thereon for consideration at SBI 48	Meeting from 7 to 9 February 2018 and report for consideration at SBI 48
CMA/COP/SBI support	Successfully supporting the SBI assessment of progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs referred to in decision 4/CP.21, paragraphs 11–13 (NAPs)	Continue to produce an annual update for the SBI on progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs	Progress reports for consideration at SBI 49 and 51
CMA/COP/SBI support	Successfully supporting the work of the SBI under Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention (LDC matters)	Address the mandate for the revision and update of the least developed countries work programme and provide recommendations to SBI 48	Recommendations included in the LEG 33 report for consideration at SBI 48
CMA/COP/SBI support	Successfully supporting the work of the SBI under Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention (LDC matters)	Prepare technical inputs on needs of the LDCs related to adaptation arising from the Paris Agreement and COP 21 decisions, including on how those gaps and needs can be addressed by the LEG and/or others	Technical inputs for consideration at SBI 48 included in the LEG 33 report
CMA/COP/SBI support	Successfully supporting the ongoing SBI assessment of progress made under Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention on NAPAs and the LDCF (LDC matters)	Continue to document and report on progress in the implementation of NAPAs under the LDCF	Information in LEG reports
Technical guidance and support	Advancing NAPs through technical guidelines and support	Maintain and disseminate NAP technical guidelines and related technical materials	Mobilization of selected organizations to develop supplements to the NAP guidelines on priority areas
Technical guidance and support	Supporting the implementation of NAPs (as part of the work programme)	Hold sessions on experience with implementation of adaptation projects during the NAP Expo, and identify challenges and obstacles, lessons learned and best practices	Recommendations on how to address the mandate to be further developed at LEG 34 (after the 2018 NAP Expo)

Modality	*Work area expected outcome*	*Main activities*	*Outputs*
		Develop an approach to addressing the mandate after the 2018 NAP Expo	
Technical guidance and support	Providing technical guidance and support for NAPAs and the least developed countries work programme	Provide ongoing support to the LDCs and the SBI for NAPAs and contribute to other activities related to the least developed countries work programme (e.g. negotiator capacity-building under the LDCF being implemented by UNEP, UNDP and UNITAR)	Provision of technical support to the LDCs for NAPAs as necessary
Technical guidelines and papers	Advancing NAPs through technical guidelines and support	Prepare a description of the NAP-SDG iFrame and supporting tools with the support of the NAP technical working group	Technical paper, supplement to the NAP guidelines and online materials on NAP Central
Technical guidelines and papers	Advancing NAPs through technical guidelines and support	Prepare a paper on considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems (with inputs from the NWP)	Supplement to the NAP guidelines and information paper on considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems
Technical guidelines and papers	Advancing NAPs through technical guidelines and support	Develop supplement to the NAP guidelines on regional approaches to adaptation planning and implementation	Supplement to the NAP guidelines
Technical guidelines and papers	Advancing NAPs through technical guidelines and support	Continue to test and facilitate the application of the PEG M&E tool at the national level (e.g. through Open NAPs) and update the tool accordingly	Updates as necessary
Technical advice and outreach	Enhancing LDCs' access to GCF funding for NAPs (by engaging with the GCF secretariat)	Continue to engage the GCF secretariat in LEG meetings, NAP Expos, regional training workshops and related events to address issues relating to the LDCs accessing GCF funding for NAPs Share information with the GCF secretariat on expediting the provision of support to the LDCs and other developing countries for formulating and implementing NAPs Share information with the GCF on the experience of the LDCs and the challenges faced by them in accessing funding from the GCF for NAPs Include an item on access to the GCF on the agenda for NAP Expos (in coordination with an AC workshop on GCF related matters planned for during	Summary of issues relating to the LDCs accessing the GCF included in LEG reports Regular exchange of information with the GCF secretariat and the GCF Board GCF sessions at NAP Expos and NAP workshops Addendum to the report on the expert meeting on assessing progress to capture the outcomes of the GCF sessions at the 2018 NAP Expo (in coordination with the AC workshop outcomes)

Modality	*Work area expected outcome*	*Main activities*	*Outputs*
		the 2018 NAP Expo) and regional training workshops on NAPs	
Technical advice and outreach	Promoting LEG interaction with the LDCs and other Parties and relevant organizations	LEG side events at sessions of the subsidiary bodies	Side event at each session
Training	Advancing NAPs through technical training	Conduct regional training workshops on NAPs	Regional training workshops in 2019
Training	Advancing NAPs through technical training	Continue to develop and update training materials, including supporting materials for the NAP-SDG iFrame, for the workshops and translate them into relevant languages, including an online version for national use	Training materials on NAPs in multiple languages
Training	Advancing NAPs through technical training	Further develop training and outreach materials, with input from the GCF secretariat and GCF implementing partners, on accessing funding from the GCF for NAPs for use in the NAP training workshops	Training and outreach materials
Training	Advancing NAPs through technical training	Continue to consider how gender responsiveness is considered in NAPs	Updated training and related technical materials to reflect considerations regarding gender and vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems
Expert meetings	Engaging regional centres and networks and relevant organizations	Organize meetings of the NAP technical working group with relevant technical experts and partners on the NAP-SDG iFrame, Open NAPs, integrated assessment methods and other topics, as and when needs arise, to explore specific NAP-related topics	Information to be included in LEG reports in 2018–2019
NAP Expos	Advancing NAPs through global and regional outreach and engagement events	Convene global NAP Expos	NAP Expo in 2018
Regional NAP Expos	Advancing NAPs through global and regional outreach and engagement events	Convene regional NAP Expos in collaboration with relevant events	Regional NAP Expos in 2018–2019

Modality	*Work area expected outcome*	*Main activities*	*Outputs*
NAP Central	Advancing NAPs through information systems	Further develop and enhance NAP Central	Enhancement of NAP Central in 2018
		Design outreach products on best practices and experience of countries in the process to formulate and implement NAPs (platform for sharing best practices and lessons learned on NAP Central)	NAP process tracking tool to be implemented online on NAP Central
		Make available online information on outputs and progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs for each developing country by key element (based on offline NAP process tracking tool)	
Open NAPs	Advancing NAPs through open collaboration	Expand the Open NAP case studies with interested partners and utilize them during the NAP workshops as well as upon the request of LDCs	Case study reports on NAP Central
		Extend the Open NAP case studies to the regional level with interested partners to demonstrate regional approaches to adaptation planning and to promote learning and effectiveness of guidance on NAPs across scales	
Collaboration with other bodies	Collaborating with relevant bodies under the Convention	Continue to collaborate with the AC on various activities, including through the NAP technical working group, NAP Expo advisory group, NAP Central support group, AC task force on NAPs and task force on the technical examination process on adaptation	LEG members to serve on the AC task forces, and information in LEG reports
Collaboration with other bodies	Collaborating with relevant bodies under the Convention	Participate in the work of the task force on displacement of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts	LEG member to serve on the task force, and information in LEG reports
Collaboration with other bodies	Collaborating with relevant bodies under the Convention	Engage NWP partner organizations in implementing relevant activities	Information in LEG reports
Collaboration with other bodies	Collaborating with relevant bodies under the Convention	Contribute to the work of the Technology Executive Committee on helping countries align their work on technology needs assessments and NAPs	Information in LEG reports
Collaboration with other bodies	Collaborating with relevant bodies under the Convention	Continue to engage with the PCCB on how to enhance collaboration and cooperation between the	Information in LEG reports

Modality	*Work area expected outcome*	*Main activities*	*Outputs*
		PCCB and other constituted bodies and institutions on capacity-building	
Collaboration with regional centres and networks	Engaging regional centres and networks and relevant organizations	Engage and mobilize regional centres and networks to nominate LEG focal points	Nominated focal points of regional centres and networks
Collaboration with regional centres and networks	Engaging regional centres and networks and relevant organizations	Mobilize relevant organizations and regional centres and networks to enhance the support provided to the LDCs for adaptation, including in relation to readiness for accessing funding from the GCF for the successful formulation and implementation of NAPs	Expanded readiness support, and information in LEG reports

Abbreviations: AC = Adaptation Committee, CMA = Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, COP = Conference of the Parties, GCF = Green Climate Fund, LDC = least developed country, LDCF = Least Developed Countries Fund, LEG = Least Developed Countries Expert Group, NAP = national adaptation plan, NAPA = national adaptation programme of action, NAP-SDG iFrame = integrative framework for national adaptation plans and the Sustainable Development Goals, NWP = Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, PCCB = Paris Committee on Capacity-building, PEG M&E tool = tool for monitoring and evaluation of progress, effectiveness and gaps in addressing adaptation in the least developed countries, SBI = Subsidiary Body for Implementation, UNDP = United Nations Development Programme, UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme, UNITAR = United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

Annex II

Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as at 5 February 2018

Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
Ms. Sonam Khandu	Bhutan
Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
Ms. Beth Lavender	Canada
Mr. Kenel Delusca	Haiti
Ms. Michelle Winthrop	Ireland
Mr. Benon Yassin	Malawi
Mr. Naresh Sharma	Nepal
Mr. Aderito Santana	Sao Tome and Principe
Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
Mr. Adao Barbosa	Timor-Leste
Ms. Mery Yaou	Togo
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United Nations

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Item 16(a) and (b) of the provisional agenda
Matters relating to capacity-building for developing countries
Capacity-building under the Convention
Capacity-building under the Kyoto Protocol

Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries

Synthesis report by the secretariat

Summary

This synthesis report has been prepared to support the Subsidiary Body for Implementation in its annual monitoring and evaluation, in accordance with decisions 2/CP.7 and 29/CMP.1, of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7. It draws on information from national communications, biennial update reports, biennial reports, national adaptation programmes of action, national adaptation plans, the 2017 annual report of the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the 2017 annual report of the Nairobi Framework Partnership. The information contained in this report, presented consistently with the 15 priority areas for capacity-building in developing countries as outlined in decision 2/CP.7, may assist Parties in reviewing progress in the implementation of the capacity-building framework and identifying areas that require additional capacity-building support. As this report will also serve as input to the work of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, it contains information relevant to the capacity-building activities in the 2016–2020 workplan. Further, this report contains information on emerging or new areas for capacity-building identified in the national reports, areas that are in line with the outcomes of the third comprehensive review of the capacity-building framework.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the secretariat to produce annually a synthesis report on activities undertaken to implement the framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7 (hereinafter referred to as the capacity-building framework).[1]

2. The COP also requested the secretariat to make the report available to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its sessions coinciding with the annual Durban Forum on capacity-building to facilitate discussions at the forum.[2] In addition, it decided that the report will serve as input to the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB).[3]

3. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), by decisions 29/CMP.1 and 6/CMP.2, requested the secretariat to consider in the annual synthesis report capacity-building activities relating to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in developing countries.

B. Scope of the report

4. This synthesis report summarizes the available information on the extent of the implementation of the capacity-building framework in developing countries, thus enabling annual monitoring of the progress made and the identification of areas that require additional capacity-building support.

5. In line with the provisions in paragraph 2 above, this synthesis report contains information that can serve as input to the PCCB in managing its 2017–2019 rolling workplan,[4] which was developed on the basis of the content of the 2016–2020 workplan.[5] The 2018 focus area or theme of the PCCB is capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of the Paris Agreement.[6]

6. The information contained in this report refers to activities reported between January 2017 and February 2018 in 18 national communications (NCs), 16 biennial update reports (BURs), three national adaptation plans (NAPs) and one national adaptation programme of action submitted by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) and 19 NCs and 35 biennial reports (BRs) submitted by Parties included in Annex II to the Convention (Annex II Parties) and other Parties. The information herein that is relevant to the Kyoto Protocol comes from the clean development mechanism (CDM) related sections of the above-mentioned national reports, the 2017 annual report of the Executive Board of the CDM to the CMP[7] and the 2017 annual report of the Nairobi Framework Partnership (NFP).[8]

7. This synthesis report includes a summary highlighting the main findings from the synthesized information, which is followed by chapters presenting information on the following topics:

(a) Issues related to reporting on capacity-building activities;

[1] Decisions 2/CP.7, paragraph 9, and 4/CP.12, paragraph 1(e).
[2] Decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 78.
[3] Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 79.
[4] Contained in document FCCC/SBI/2017/11, annex IV.
[5] Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 73.
[6] FCCC/SBI/2017/11, paragraph 5(e).
[7] FCCC/KP/CMP/2017/5.
[8] https://nairobiframeworkpartnership.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/nairobi-framework-annual-report-2017.pdf.

(b) Capacity-building action undertaken and further capacity-building gaps and needs indicated by developing country Parties within the scope of the capacity-building framework;

(c) Capacity-building support provided by Annex II Parties and other Parties to address the gaps and needs identified within the scope of the capacity-building framework;

(d) Emerging or new areas for capacity-building and associated gaps and needs indicated by developing country Parties;

(e) Support provided by Annex II Parties and other Parties to address the emerging or new areas for capacity-building;

(f) Capacity-building activities under the Kyoto Protocol.

8. Examples of activities have been drawn from the national reports for illustrative purposes but they comprise neither an exhaustive nor a representative list of Parties' capacity-building efforts.

9. This synthesis report may not convey a complete overview of capacity-building activities undertaken in developing countries, as further work may have been undertaken by developing countries and their support institutions after the submission of the national reports, and information on certain areas may not have been available in those documents.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

10. The SBI may wish to use the information contained in this report:

(a) To monitor and review the implementation of the capacity-building framework;

(b) To support Parties in their consideration of how to enhance the current practice of reporting on the impacts of capacity-building activities, best practices and lessons learned and how these should inform relevant processes under the Convention to enhance the implementation of capacity-building activities;[9]

(c) As input to discussions at the 7th Durban Forum on capacity-building, to be held in conjunction with SBI 48;

(d) As input to the 2nd meeting of the PCCB, to be held in conjunction with SBI 48.

D. Possible action by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

11. The PCCB may wish to use the information contained in this report, where applicable, for the purposes of:

(a) Identifying capacity gaps and needs and recommending ways to address them, pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 73(b);

(b) Promoting the development and dissemination of tools and methodologies for the implementation of capacity-building, pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 73(c);

(c) Exploring how developing country Parties can take ownership of building and maintaining capacity over time and space, pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 73(f);

(d) Identifying opportunities to strengthen capacity at the national, regional and subnational level, pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 73(g);

(e) Taking into consideration, in its work, cross-cutting issues such as gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples' knowledge, pursuant to decision 16/CP.22, paragraph 4(a);

[9] Decision 16/CP.22, paragraph 3.

(f) Taking into consideration, in its work, the outcomes of the third comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries, pursuant to decision 16/CP.22, paragraph 4(b);

(g) Taking into consideration, in its work, ways of enhancing reporting on capacity-building activities, taking into account all initiatives, actions and measures on capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement as well as existing reporting mandates, in order to achieve coherence and coordination, pursuant to decision 16/CP.22, paragraph 4(f).

II. Summary of findings

12. The **use of the data collected** for national reports beyond their inclusion in the reports needs to be assessed. Some developing countries see the preparation of NCs and BURs as a capacity-building opportunity and actively use the collected data for other purposes, including tracking and monitoring performance, after the submission of the national reports. However, in other countries the information contained in the NCs and BURs is scarcely used after the submission of the reports. This issue should be considered in the light of the increasing reporting responsibilities under the Paris Agreement, which will likely require additional resources and capacity.

13. Progress has been made with respect to **capacity-building at the institutional, systemic and individual level**. More national policies and dedicated government entities for climate change are in place, various awareness-raising and educational activities are being undertaken and climate change is increasingly being integrated in school curricula.

14. Many developing countries still express a need for **additional expertise and technical training at the local, subnational and national level**. Systematic data collection, database management, data analysis and consistent integration of climate change issues into policies constitute major challenges for some countries. Better data collection may also be used to develop more accurate risk models and early warning systems.

15. Owing to the evolving nature of climate science and policy,[10] several capacity-building projects that do not relate directly to one of the 15 priority areas within the capacity-building framework were reported. Some of the **emerging or new areas for capacity-building** identified in the national reports are the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of mitigation actions, readiness for and access to climate finance, and NDCs.

16. Some projects have been undertaken to support the **MRV of mitigation actions** in developing countries. Despite the progress made, MRV is still widely cited as an area where capacity needs to be strengthened in terms of both expertise and supporting measurement tools.

17. More regional, national and international **networks for information sharing and cooperation** have been set up, which effectively increases the awareness and capacity of network members; however, further capacity-building is needed to make better use of the websites and platforms and to strengthen cooperation among stakeholder groups. At the same time, access to information remains an issue for some developing countries – especially their rural populations, whose access to the Internet or educational facilities may be limited.

18. Capacity-building is widely recognized by Annex II Parties and other Parties as an **essential element for effective climate action** and has been built into the climate change projects supported by them. The cross-cutting and integrated nature of capacity-building makes it difficult to track capacity-building support separately and attach financial values to such support.

19. **Clearer reporting standards** on capacity-building support provided may be required so that reporting is done in a more consistent manner, enabling a better compilation and aggregation of the data for tracking and monitoring.

[10] See document FCCC/TP/2016/1

20. The **types of capacity-building support** provided by Annex II Parties and other Parties depended primarily on the specific needs and priorities of developing countries and on the strengths and areas of expertise of the developed country Parties. Projects on agricultural adaptation, water and waste management, clean energy technologies, training of local experts and risk management were frequently reported.

21. An emerging need of developing countries is the **translation of their NDCs into concrete, sector-specific plans of action**. Workshops and similar activities on this topic have been supported by Annex II and other Parties. More generally, some countries expressed their need for a systematic identification of their capacity-building needs and more financial support opportunities to address them.

22. Two types of support were identified to increase **access to climate finance**, which is an area that is not listed in the capacity-building framework. The first type is for projects that aim to improve developing countries' capacity to access existing climate funds, which may involve technical assistance and/or support for relevant reporting activities. The second type is for projects that aim to secure additional climate finance sources, usually by attempting to increase investments from the private sector or by helping to direct local investments into small and medium enterprises.

23. The inclusion of **gender perspectives, human rights considerations and indigenous peoples' knowledge** is limited in most projects. A small number of countries are more heavily engaged in these issues than the majority is. Additional capacity-building, including more research, is needed to increase knowledge about the linkages between gender and climate change and to mainstream the inclusion of gender perspectives in climate change policy and action. A few projects supported by Annex II Parties addressed this issue.

24. In the context of the **Kyoto Protocol**, the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (CDM) has continued to provide support for designated national authorities (DNAs), including training events in several developing countries. Regional collaboration centres (RCCs) have provided direct technical support and organized various capacity-building events at the regional and subregional level.

25. The Nairobi Framework Partnership[11] (NFP) developed a medium-term strategy based on the barriers and opportunities for **NDC implementation** to improve transparency by providing technical assistance on regional MRV systems and support in order to integrate MRV systems into national carbon markets. Furthermore, NFP carbon forums, which function as a regional platform for discussion and the exchange of experience and information, will henceforth be organized jointly with the NDC Partnership[12] under the umbrella of Climate Week events.

III. Overview of information reported on the implementation of the capacity-building framework

A. Issues related to reporting on capacity-building activities

1. Reporting issues indicated by non-Annex I Parties

26. The usefulness of the data compiled for preparing NCs and BURs, measured against the time and effort that go into preparing the reports and their usage beyond inclusion in the reports, may need to be assessed. For some developing countries, such as Ecuador, the process of preparing the NCs is regarded as a good capacity-building opportunity, whereby various stakeholder groups come together through active dialogue and consultation to contribute to the report. Moreover, countries such as Chile and Saint Lucia actively use the NCs and BURs as their reporting and feedback tool and track their own performance by comparing their recent reports with previous ones. However, other countries see preparing the NCs and BURs only as a requirement under the Convention that needs to be fulfilled, and they scarcely use the information gathered for the NCs and BURs afterwards. Some

[11] For more information, see https://nfpartnership.org/partners/.

[12] For more information, see https://ndcpartnership.org/.

non-Annex I Parties foresee challenges in meeting the additional reporting responsibilities under the Paris Agreement, given their limited administrative and technical capacity.

2. Reporting issues indicated by Annex II Parties and other Parties

27. Many Annex II Parties and other Parties that provided support for capacity-building reported that capacity-building is an integral component built into climate projects that makes separately tracking capacity-building inherently difficult. The cross-cutting and integrated nature of capacity-building also makes it challenging to delineate the financial flows attached solely to the capacity-building component of the projects. In this context, the need for an internationally agreed approach to tracking capacity-building quantitatively and/or qualitatively in official development assistance in general and in climate projects in particular was mentioned in few reports. Further, the need for redesigning or better aligning the national reporting guidelines for capacity-building activities and support provided, given the cross-cutting nature of capacity-building was noted in some BRs.

28. Some developed country Parties left table 9, titled "Provision of capacity-building support", of their BR blank for various reasons, including those specified in paragraph 27 above. Even for those Parties that did fill out table 9, reporting on the capacity-building support provided varies considerably by country. Some countries included only a few representative projects that could be categorized as capacity-building projects, whereas others included all projects that had a capacity-building component. In addition, some countries appeared to use a broader definition of capacity-building than others. Thus, reporting on the capacity-building support provided is not consistent across countries.

B. Capacity-building action undertaken and further capacity-building gaps and needs indicated by developing country Parties within the scope of the capacity-building framework

29. In many developing countries, a dedicated agency that handles climate change related issues and reporting requirements under the Convention has been set up, and new policy frameworks that enable the implementation of low-emission and climate-resilient development have been established. For instance, Mongolia set up a new ministry for green growth since declaring green growth as its national priority. Kyrgyzstan recently established a national commission to take on the reporting tasks and responsibilities under the Convention and to prevent an overlap of work on climate change related issues among its ministries.

30. Some countries have a national climate change policy or strategy in place, and others have incorporated climate change mitigation and adaptation into their development plans. For instance, Colombia has a national plan in place for both adaptation and mitigation, and capacity-building has been built into the Colombian Low Carbon Development Strategy and the national adaptation strategies. Serbia has acknowledged the need for a NAP, but does not have one in place yet. South Sudan does not yet have a national climate change policy or strategy in place, although adaptation is integrated into its development plans. Togo has formulated a NAP, and a technical committee has been set up to coordinate the process to implement it. Kenya recently submitted its NAP, which outlines capacity-building tasks at all levels of society and all sectors, including the engagement of universities and research institutes for assessing local risks and adaptation options. Zimbabwe has several policies in place that support climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the sustainable management of resources such as agricultural land and water (see box 1 below). It should be noted that the process of preparing NCs and developing national climate change policies in developing countries, owing to its inclusive and participatory nature, is being supported by various institutions, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, notably the Global Environment Facility.

Box 1

Integrating climate change issues into policy: recent developments in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is in the process of integrating climate change action into a wide range of policy areas. At the time of preparing its third national communication, Zimbabwe was also finalizing a national climate policy. The policy aims to provide a unified and coordinated response to climate change issues; moreover, it will attempt to mainstream climate change issues and reflect them in various sectoral policies. A separate national water policy was established in 2013. Water is a priority adaptation area for Zimbabwe because a sizeable portion of the population lives in rural and farming communities that largely depend on rain-fed agriculture – their livelihoods are heavily affected by rainfall variability and weather extremes. Furthermore, the gender policy of 2013 incorporates climate issues, noting that women are especially vulnerable to climate change as they form the majority of the population in rural and farming communities.

The expected high impact of climate change on agricultural communities is reflected in the fact that 50 per cent of the budget of the National Climate Response Strategy is reserved for water- and agriculture-related measures. The national strategy, among others, aims to create regulatory frameworks to promote resource efficiency, clean production, climate resilience, implementation of mitigation, research and development of mitigation technologies, and monitoring of the implementation of environmental management systems. Funding for this 10-year strategy is expected to come from a wide range of sources, including the national government, the Green Climate Fund, bilateral support, the clean development mechanism and private sector investment. However, financial resources are still lacking, which means that some of the actions outlined in the national water policy, for example, cannot be fully undertaken.

Source: Third national communication of Zimbabwe. Available at http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/items/10124.php.

31. Despite the notable progress in the institutional set-up of agencies and national climate change plans and programmes, many reports indicate that more needs to be done to better link national climate change agencies with other ministries and to strengthen the coordination of agencies at all government levels. It is commonly reported that many newly established agencies and government structures need to secure personnel, permanent administrative capacity and continuous funding so these institutions can build institutional memory and retain capacity. With regard to national climate change plans and programmes, developing countries seek capacity-building support for implementing those plans and programmes at the sectoral level. It is specifically mentioned that they require additional expertise on how best to solicit the cooperation of industry, key sectors and the public, possibly through education, training and the provision of appropriate incentives.

32. While climate change appears to have gained more potency in governments as a priority area, this potency has not yet led to a systematic integration of climate change into national planning and budgeting in some developing countries, such as Togo. Some countries, such as China and Jordan, are grappling with how to balance economic growth and environmental sustainability. Jordan reported that climate change mitigation or considerations for environmental sustainability in general are not priorities in the allocation of national finances, which increases its dependence on international organizations for support.

33. Training of staff and policymakers and enhancement of the administrative and technical capacity of government institutions responsible for handling climate change related issues were identified as gaps by many countries. Although more infrastructure systems and tools for climate action are currently available in developing countries, a deeper and better defined level of capacity-building of staff and government institutions is needed in all aspects of mitigation- and adaptation-related activities, including greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions accounting, systematic observation, data collection, research, risk and vulnerability assessment, and uncertainty estimation.

34. Challenges were again reported in managing the national GHG inventory and emissions database; institutional capacity and technical expertise are still lacking in

collecting, managing and using data and in effectively coordinating with other sectors and institutions to gather and present national-level data. Developing countries, in general, require further capacity-building in developing national emission factors, especially for the emissions and activities of private sector companies, for setting up emission baselines on a sectoral basis, for calculating emissions and for carbon emissions trading. The Solomon Islands specifically mentioned its need for more training on applying for CDM projects.

35. The need for further capacity-building in the areas of climate risk modelling, vulnerability assessment and early warning systems was frequently mentioned in the reports, including by small island developing States, such as Mauritius and Saint Lucia. In Colombia, a national inventory of vulnerability by region was carried out, but more needs to be done to make better use of the inventory, including enhancing interregional cooperation. In Kenya, vulnerability and risk assessment is yet to be undertaken and incorporated into adaptation plans for the agriculture, water, livestock and fisheries sectors. Risk maps need to be developed in Chile, and the Party mentioned the need for targeted training on adaptation measures that are linked to risk analysis.

36. Educating and training local governments and their staff was identified as a persistent and increasing need, based on a growing understanding that it is not sufficient to train only national governments and staff on climate change issues. The importance of engaging local governments and staff, especially in adaptation-related activities for communities that are particularly vulnerable to climate risks, was reported. Building the capacity of communities is also seen as increasingly important for sustainable development, resilience to climate change and adaptation.

37. Similar to the finding of the 2017 synthesis report on the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries,[13] many countries reported notable progress in educating and raising awareness of the general public on climate change issues. Climate change has been or is expected to be integrated into school curricula in an increasing number of developing countries.

38. Nevertheless, access to information remains an issue in some developing countries for local people who may not have a computer and Internet access, as much of the information is digitized and provided in English and other major languages only. Even at schools where climate change has been integrated into the curriculum, developing and securing education materials remains a challenge, as is the case for Uzbekistan (see box 2 below).

Box 2

Challenges in implementing climate change education in Uzbekistan

In recent decades, the education system of Uzbekistan has been undergoing radical reforms, including the adoption of mandatory primary and secondary education. In July 2015, the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan approved the "Program of Actions for Staged Introduction of Principles of Education for Sustainable Development in Educational System of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2015–2017", which aimed to incorporate sustainable development issues in educational curricula at all levels. Furthermore, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development was implemented making use of the knowledge of non-governmental organizations with experience implementing education for sustainable development strategies. Further, a centre on sustainable education was established.

Despite the progress made, Uzbekistan has noted its issues in training teachers on climate change and the lack of training and education materials, especially in the Uzbek language. Moreover, a considerable number of materials are available only digitally, which decreases accessibility for some population groups. A dedicated tool for climate change adaptation and mitigation for vulnerable groups, especially small-scale farmers, needs to be developed. Further, additional educational modules on climate change issues need to be developed for both schoolchildren and students at higher level academic institutions.

Source: Third national communication of Uzbekistan. Available at http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-

[13] FCCC/SBI/2017/3.

annex_i_natcom/items/10124.php

39. Forming and using regional and international networks for information sharing and cooperation can help better tackle climate change related issues that are often transboundary, including the adaptation and management of water systems and marine areas, climate resilience, and integrated risk assessment. Networks and websites for knowledge exchange and information sharing have been established in some but not all developing countries. In tandem with the need for increased awareness and involvement of the public and all sectors, improved access to information through setting up or strengthening networks and websites is being pursued. For instance, the Solomon Islands reported that it aspires to enhance its existing networks for knowledge exchange by including local and traditional knowledge and the experience of and lessons learned from previous climate change projects.

C. Capacity-building support provided by Annex II Parties and other Parties to address the gaps and needs identified within the scope of the capacity-building framework

40. Most Annex II Parties and other Parties acknowledged that capacity-building is an essential element for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. Capacity-building helps ensure the successful and effective implementation of climate change measures and the sustainability of any project or programme. As noted in paragraph 27 above, several Annex II Parties indicated that the cross-cutting and integrated nature of capacity-building makes separate tracking of capacity-building support challenging.

41. Notwithstanding the challenges indicated in reporting on capacity-building support provided, the table below provides a quantitative summary of all capacity-building projects that Annex II and other Parties supported in this reporting cycle. The information comes directly from table 9 of the countries' respective BRs, and the table uses target area classifications also taken from table 9 of the BRs. Projects marked as covering "multiple" areas are the ones listed by the countries as supporting "multiple target areas" or marked as "cross-cutting" or "multiple". If table 9 of a country's BR was left blank, projects included in its NCs and BRs that had an explicit capacity-building component were included in the table; this was the case for Hungary, Lithuania, Malta and Switzerland. Parties included in Annex I to the Convention that are not included in Annex II are not obliged to provide capacity-building support, but such support was still reported by some countries and is shown in the table.

42. A caveat to the table is that reporting varies considerably by country. As noted in paragraph 28 above, some countries provided a few representative projects in table 9 of their BRs whereas others listed all projects that include a capacity-building component. In addition, the classification of projects differed considerably by country. For example, Slovakia separately listed individual scholarships, which resulted in a relatively high number of capacity-building projects reported. For most countries, technology transfer was an integrated part of projects, which meant the projects were classified as supporting "multiple" areas, but Italy is a notable exception: it had a very large number of projects listed under "technology transfer".

Overview of capacity-building support provided by Annex II Parties and other Parties

Country	*Annex II Party?*	*No. capacity-building projects supporting mitigation*	*No. capacity-building projects supporting adaptation*	*No. capacity-building projects supporting multiple areas*	*No. capacity-building projects supporting technology transfer*	*Total no. capacity-building projects*
Australia	Yes	10	0	1	0	11
Austria	Yes	2	1	1	0	4
Belgium	Yes	6	22	12	0	40
Bulgaria	No	–	–	–	–	0

Canada	Yes	6	5	4	0	15
Czechia	No	–	–	–	–	0
Denmark	Yes	4	3	2	0	9
Estonia	No	–	–	–	–	0
European Union	Yes	5	2	4	0	11
Finland	Yes	1	0	5	0	6
France	Yes	2	3	4	0	9
Germany	Yes	6	7	3	0	16
Greece	Yes	0	1	1	0	2
Hungary	No	–	–	–	1	1
Iceland	Yes	2	2	2	–	6
Italy	Yes	1	2	16	17	36
Japan	Yes	5	9	6	0	20
Kazakhstan	No	0	1	1	1	3
Latvia	No	1	0	3	0	4
Liechtenstein	No	–	–	–	–	0
Lithuania	No	1	2	2	–	5
Malta	No	0	2	0	0	2
Netherlands	Yes	2	14	1	0	17
New Zealand	Yes	12	18	11	0	41
Norway	Yes	8	4	7	0	19
Poland	No	0	3	0	0	3
Portugal	Yes	8	5	0	0	13
Romania	No	–	–	–	–	0
Russian Federation	No	1	0	1	0	2
Slovakia	No	0	35	0	0	35
Spain	Yes	0	5	30	1	36
Sweden	Yes	3	5	10	0	18
Switzerland	Yes	0	1	3	0	4
United Kingdom	Yes	4	4	3	0	11
Total		**80**	**156**	**132**	**20**	**399**

Sources: Third biennial reports as well as national communications of 2017. Available at http://unfccc.int/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/biennial_reports_data_interface/items/10132.php and http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/items/10124.php, respectively.

43. The types of capacity-building support provided by Annex II and other Parties depended primarily on the specific needs and priorities of developing countries and the strengths and expertise of the countries providing the support. Finland supported the enhancement of hydrometeorological services in non-Annex I Parties by strengthening the capacity of national hydrometeorological institutions in various developing countries. Greece intensified its capacity-building support for water and natural resources management, wastewater and solid waste management, and adaptation in the least developed countries as part of its development assistance efforts. New Zealand provided support for capacity-building in agriculture, renewable energy and resilient infrastructure through various bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, including the New Zealand Aid Programme and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases.

44. Some projects supported by developed country Parties aimed to build the institutional capacity of developing countries. For instance, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland assisted developing countries in creating or strengthening domestic institutions to help implement the transparency provisions of the Paris Agreement. It also provided technical tools that enable the estimation of GHG emissions and removals and the tracking of progress towards the NDC targets in developing countries. Sweden supported a forest management programme in Mozambique that is designed to improve.

among other things, its institutional capacity and relevant legal and policy frameworks for sustainable forest management practices.

45. A total of 80 projects were reported as distinctly supporting mitigation, as shown in the table above, although many more projects supporting mitigation were listed under "multiple areas". In support of mitigation, capacity-building was primarily offered for activities aimed at strengthening measures to reduce emissions from land use, deforestation and forest degradation, developing countries' readiness for a domestic carbon emission market and low-carbon development. For instance, Germany supported a forest programme aimed at the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus[14]) in Indonesia that includes various capacity-building measures. The programme assists the Government of Indonesia in designing and implementing legal, policy and institutional reforms for the conservation and sustainable management of forests at the local, provincial and national level; it also provides education and training opportunities for decision makers from the public and the private sector so they can learn how REDD-plus activities can be implemented on the ground. Through a World Bank partnership programme, Australia helped build the capacity of developing countries to develop their domestic carbon market instruments to scale up emission reduction efforts and support low-carbon development. The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Low Emission Capacity Building Programme is another example of projects supporting mitigation action at the country level with distinct features for relevant capacity-building and technology transfer (see box 3 below).

Box 3

United Nations Development Programme's Low Emission Capacity Building Programme

The Low Emission Capacity Building Programme of the United Nations Development Programme is supported by Australia, Germany and the European Union. Its focus is on realizing climate change mitigation and sustainable development opportunities, within the context of national priorities and planning processes, for 25 countries around the world. The programme provides tools and training for identifying and designing relevant projects, as well as innovative policy and financing options. The project uses a menu approach, which means that each participating country determines, develops and executes its own project with a clear focus on one of the national priority areas. Country-level insights are shared within the project to stimulate discussion and strengthen technical capacities for the implementation of climate action. The project includes both a Global Support Team and in-country offices that facilitate consultations and workshops. The aim is to engage both public and private sector stakeholders.

Source: Seventh national communication and third biennial report of the European Union. Available at http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/items/10138.php.

46. Efforts were made to increase access to renewable energy and to promote energy efficiency in developing countries as a driver for low-carbon and climate-resilient development. For instance, the Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme, supported by Germany, works with the Ugandan Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to build the ministry's capacity for the improved policies, budget planning, monitoring and evaluation necessary for a more sustainable use of energy and, ultimately, mitigation. The programme also includes capacity-building measures for the private sector that aim to disseminate renewable and energy-efficient products and services more widely and in the long term. Japan supported a project in Pakistan that aims to phase out the use of inefficient electronic appliances and to make energy efficiency labelling mandatory.

[14] In decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, the COP encouraged developing country Parties to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking the following activities: reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

47. On the climate-friendly and renewable energy front, study tours and partnership opportunities were offered to build the capacity of the biogas and geothermal energy sectors. For instance, the Netherlands helped build the capacity of the biogas sectors in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda so the countries could use domestic biogas as an energy source. The Netherlands also offered various training opportunities for the geothermal sector of Indonesia and provided support for the Group of 20 and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation economies to reform their inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. Iceland, too, provided research and training opportunities for practitioners from developing countries in the field of geothermal energy, in cooperation with the United Nations University.

48. A total of 156 projects were reported as primarily supporting "adaptation", as shown in the table above, although many more projects supporting adaptation are also listed under "multiple areas". As part of their capacity-building support for adaptation, developed country Parties assisted developing countries in the integration of climate resiliency in existing and new infrastructure and in a green transformation of their agricultural and forestry practices, among other aspects. The sustainable development and management of water resources, especially for agricultural irrigation, and waste management were some of the notable areas of support for adaptation. Efforts were made to reduce the vulnerability of the rural population to climate risks, including through insurance coverage in developing countries. For instance, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit in Germany worked closely with insurance companies and clients in India to improve the insurance coverage of rural households and farms so that small farmers can better cope with financial losses in the cases of crop failure or extreme weather events. Italy signed a memorandum of understanding with the environment ministries of multiple developing countries, including Argentina, Belize and Georgia, to support mechanisms for climate change vulnerability and risk assessment and to implement, among other things, adaptation measures.

49. A total of 20 projects were reported as supporting "technology transfer", as shown in the table above, although many projects marked as supporting "multiple areas" include a technology transfer component. In fact, the development and transfer of technology was embedded in many of the climate projects supported by Annex II and other Parties, including those mentioned in paragraphs 44–48 above, and relevant capacity-building support was provided. For instance, Belgium extended its support for an agroforestry food security programme in Malawi that aims to promote climate-smart and resilient agroforestry technologies and practices. The programme was also dedicated to strengthening the capacity of local and national institutions and non-governmental organizations in scaling up the climate-smart agroforestry practices and helping policymakers formulate appropriate policy instruments for mainstreaming such practices. Germany supported a South–South cooperation project that entails working with 18 developing countries to improve their GHG emission reporting following the implementation of REDD-plus activities. The project helped disseminate a software tool for forest monitoring developed by the Government of Brazil that uses remote sensing technology and geoinformation systems to enhance the target countries' monitoring systems, enabling improved monitoring of REDD-plus activities and their resulting GHG emission reductions.

IV. Overview of emerging or new areas for capacity-building

50. This chapter contains information about a few capacity-building areas mentioned in the reports submitted by developing as well as developed country Parties in this reporting cycle that are emerging or new areas for capacity-building. These areas, although linked to the overarching themes considered in the capacity-building framework, are not included in the list of 15 priority areas and needs agreed in 2001. The evolving nature of climate science and policy has led to the emergence of new capacity-building needs. Some of these new areas for capacity-building have been identified before, notably in the technical paper

prepared by the secretariat on the third comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries;[15] these previously identified emerging areas include REDD-plus, readiness for and access to climate finance, nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs), NDCs and transparency.[16]

A. Emerging or new areas for capacity-building and associated gaps and needs indicated by developing country Parties

51. The MRV of mitigation actions was frequently cited as an emerging area for capacity-building that needs to be strengthened further, similar to the finding of the 2017 synthesis report.[17] Additional support is needed to enable developing countries to set up functional meteorological institutes and to collect, generate and interpret data in accordance with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines and the Paris Agreement. Training for the effective use of MRV software and tools and for more systematic observation is required to enhance the MRV process. Tunisia mentioned the need for capacity-building for developing NAMAs and tracking progress on their implementation as well as for relevant MRV methodologies.

52. One of the emerging areas for capacity-building identified is the ability to translate the goals of the NDCs into concrete actions for key sectors. The need to provide relevant education and training opportunities to the sectors for successful implementation of NDCs was also mentioned.

53. Uruguay noted the need for future Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency projects to provide a methodological approach to identifying and assessing a country's needs for support in the areas of finance, technology and capacity-building to implement its mitigation projects successfully. Related to this is the need, mentioned by Colombia and Tunisia, for improved access to information about and tracking of climate finance opportunities for developing countries.

B. Support provided by Annex II Parties and other Parties to address the emerging or new areas for capacity-building

54. Support was provided to help equip developing countries with the capacity for MRV activities. For instance, the European Union, through its ClimaSouth project, provided technical assistance for mitigation in the Mediterranean, particularly for the MRV of GHG emissions and the formulation of low-emission development strategies. Another project supported by the European Union offered selected local governments a comprehensive methodological framework, called the GreenClimateCities methodology, to integrate low-carbon strategies into all sectors of urban planning and development. The European Union also disseminated a GHG emissions quantification and monitoring software called the Harmonized Emissions Analysis Tool Plus (HEAT+) and made available a pool of experts who could provide training on using the software. HEAT+ is designed to support the forecasting, planning and verification of mitigation actions undertaken. Germany supported a project that aims to establish a climate competence centre in Morocco to enable its implementation of the national climate strategy by strengthening the capacity of Morocco's national observatory and 13 regional observatories. The project also aims to develop a reliable climate database and an MRV system.

55. Support was provided to help developing countries develop and further elaborate their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) with the aim of encouraging more countries to be active in pursuing the goals of the Paris Agreement. For instance, Germany hosted a global workshop on INDCs in Berlin in 2017 that was attended by more than 50 countries. In 2015, Spain organized a regional workshop, targeting Latin American

[15] FCCC/TP/2016/1.
[16] As footnote 15 above.
[17] FCCC/SBI/2017/3.

and Caribbean countries, on tools and methodologies for the design of INDCs. The NDC Partnership is a new international partnership launched with the objective of helping turn the NDCs of countries into specific strategies and measures, and support was provided for activities of the NDC Partnership by countries like Germany and the United Kingdom.

56. Some capacity-building projects supported by Annex II Parties were aimed at facilitating developing countries' access to climate finance. For instance, Australia supported a project aimed at enhancing the capacity of South Africa to monitor and measure emissions from land use so that it can meet the international reporting requirements and gain accreditation for climate finance. New Zealand provided technical assistance to developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region to help them gain a better understanding of the funding requirements of the Green Climate Fund and to help eligible governments obtain funding for their selected climate projects. Canada supported a project of the International Development Research Centre that brings together stakeholders from the policy and scientific community and the private sector to discuss and analyse current challenges and opportunities in adaptation finance. The project, launched in April 2016, aims to develop a typology and criteria for adaptation projects that can help attract and secure more investment from the private sector and to investigate the financial and business risks associated with adaptation projects. It also aims to assess how such risks can be mitigated and how financial institutions and the public sector can work together to enable larger financial flows into adaptation.

57. In addition to providing support to facilitate access to existing climate finance, efforts are being made to enhance capacities for securing additional sources of funding. For instance, the United Kingdom provided technical assistance through the Global Climate Partnership Fund. The Fund envisions setting up an investment vehicle that invests through local banks in developing countries to make finance available for small and medium enterprises for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Belgium's Green Growth Strategy Facility programme is another example of a climate finance facility (see box 4 below).

Box 4

Green Growth Strategy Facility: support provided by Belgium

The objective of this project is to enable the implementation of the Viet Nam National Green Growth Strategy by setting up a new climate finance facility. For the duration of the project, the facility is to be tested through pilot green growth projects. The project includes two capacity-building activities. At the national level, the project supports the Ministry of Planning and Investment in developing the required capacity to manage the climate finance facility over the long term. At provincial level, all the selected pilot projects include capacity reinforcement. In Ha Tinh province, farmers are being trained to grow organic mushrooms using agricultural residues and climate-friendly techniques. Water-efficient irrigation techniques leading to a reduction of fertilizer-related greenhouse gas emissions will be taught and implemented in the provinces of Binh Thuan and Ninh Thuan. The pilot projects also include technology transfer activities necessary for water-efficient irrigation systems and solar photovoltaic powered light emitting diode lighting in Binh Thuan.

Source: Seventh national communication and third biennial report of Belgium. Available at http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/annex_i_natcom_/application/pdf/7319685_belgium-nc7-br3-1-nc7_en_lr.pdf.

58. Support was provided to strengthen the governance of climate finance in developing countries. A UNDP programme supported by Sweden helps to integrate climate change considerations in the local and national budgeting and planning processes in some developing countries in Asia. The programme also focuses on climate action that promotes gender equality, human rights and poverty reduction in an integrated manner. The United Kingdom provided support for integrating climate change into development planning, budgeting and delivery in Southern Asian countries with the aim of 'climate proofing' growth and development.

59. Some projects specifically targeted enhancing the capacity of female delegates from developing countries and generating knowledge about linkages between gender and climate

change. For instance, Iceland, in partnership with the United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme, supported research on gender and climate change in the context of rural Uganda and helped prepare the Ugandan delegation for participation in the COP. Finland supported the projects of various partner institutions that were aimed at mainstreaming gender perspectives in climate policy and action at the local, national and international level (see box 5 below).

Box 5

Mainstreaming gender in global climate policy: support provided by Finland

From 2008 to 2016, Finland supported a project implemented by the Global Gender and Climate Alliance aimed at strengthening the role of women and mainstreaming gender perspectives in global climate policy. The project, through its four phases, advocated the establishment and implementation of gender-responsive actions on climate change through promoting the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations, providing technical support to Parties and stakeholders, and helping incorporate criteria for gender equality and women's empowerment in climate finance mechanisms. Specifically, the Women Delegates Fund, administered by the Women's Environment and Development Organization, supported the travel of women delegates to participate in UNFCCC meetings and helped enhance their leadership and negotiation skills. Another partner institution of Finland, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, facilitated the development of national climate change and gender action plans, bringing the total number to 21. Moreover, the United Nations Development Programme supported mainstreaming gender at the national level through the development of guidelines and training programmes.

Source: Third biennial report of Finland. Available at http://unfccc.int/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/biennial_reports_data_interface/items/10132.php

V. Capacity-building activities under the Kyoto Protocol

60. The CDM Executive Board continued to support DNAs, including through training events in Benin, Colombia, Honduras, Madagascar, Mongolia, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines and Thailand. For instance, a global Designated National Authorities Forum held in November 2016 enabled an exchange of information and sharing of experience. RCCs provided direct technical support and organized various capacity-building events at the regional and subregional level. During the reporting period, the sustainable development tool was further promoted and made more user-friendly; the tool is an online interface with which project participants can voluntarily report on the sustainable development co-benefits of their CDM projects.

61. A number of NFP meetings were held, which convened DNAs, NFPs, potential investors and experts, including those from regional carbon forums. The future of the carbon forum was discussed in the 2017 annual report of the NFP; the regional carbon forums that were held in Africa, the Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean will henceforth be organized under the umbrella of Climate Week. Climate Week events will be jointly hosted by the NFP and the NDC Partnership and will potentially discuss the following topics: NDC implementation and continuity of CDM mitigation projects in a transparent manner; support for the implementation of carbon markets, possibly based on the CDM; dissemination of green technologies using the CDM to finance climate action; and development of climate policies.

62. The NFP developed a medium-term strategy based on barriers and opportunities for NDC implementation. The thematic areas of this strategy are carbon market frameworks, transparency and MRV, and financing mitigation action, each of which is taken up by institutions such as the World Bank, UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme. The NFP's work on transparency and MRV will aim to provide the technical assistance needed for regional MRV systems and for coordinating and integrating national carbon markets and MRV systems, including the use of CDM tools. The work area of financing mitigation action aims to improve access to other sources of funding, potentially including impact investment, crowdfunding and remittances.